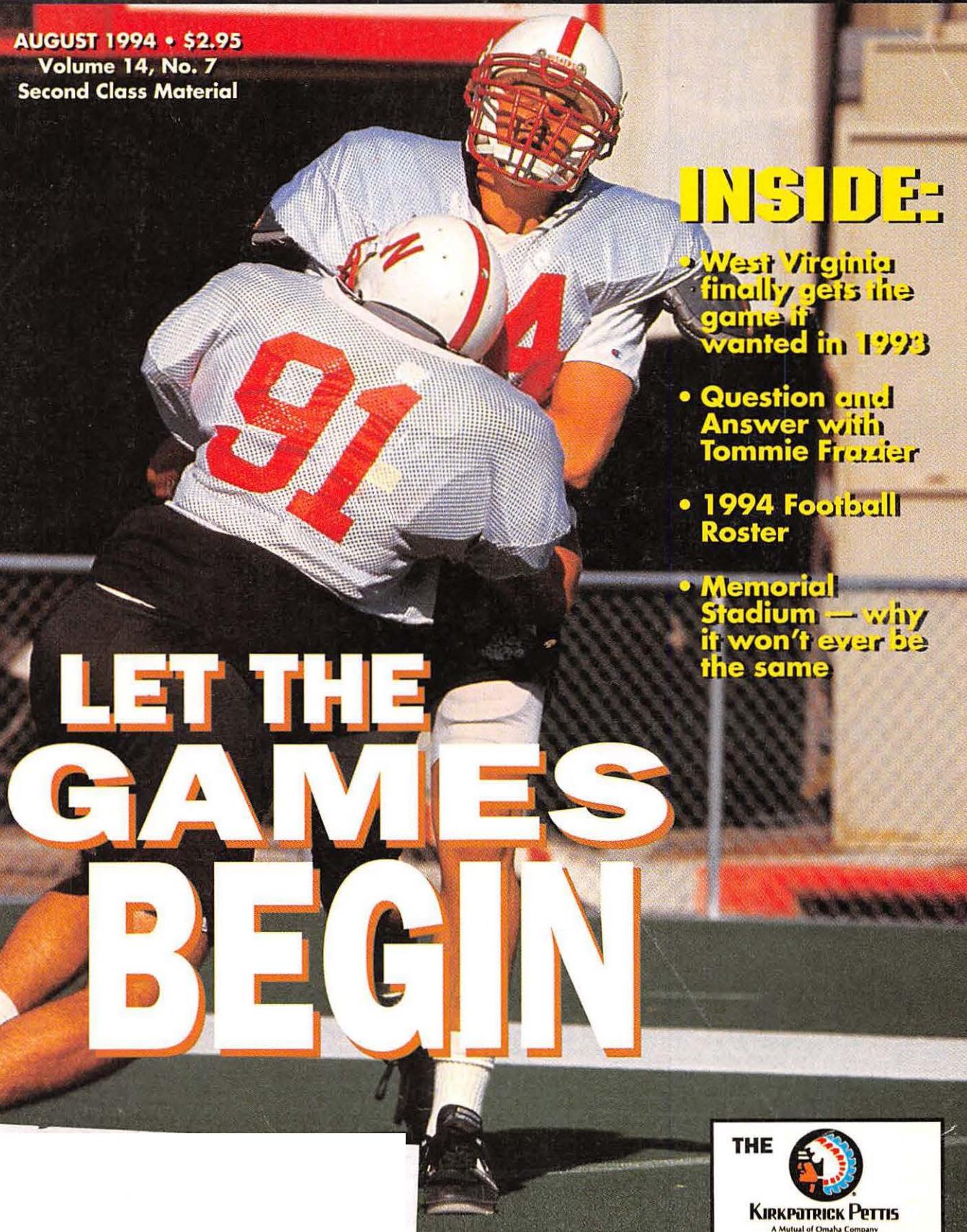


KICKOFF CLASSIC PREVIEW EDITION

Huskers Illustrated

AUGUST 1994 • \$2.95

Volume 14, No. 7
Second Class Material



INSIDE:

- West Virginia finally gets the game it wanted in 1993
- Question and Answer with Tommie Frazier
- 1994 Football Roster
- Memorial Stadium — why it won't ever be the same

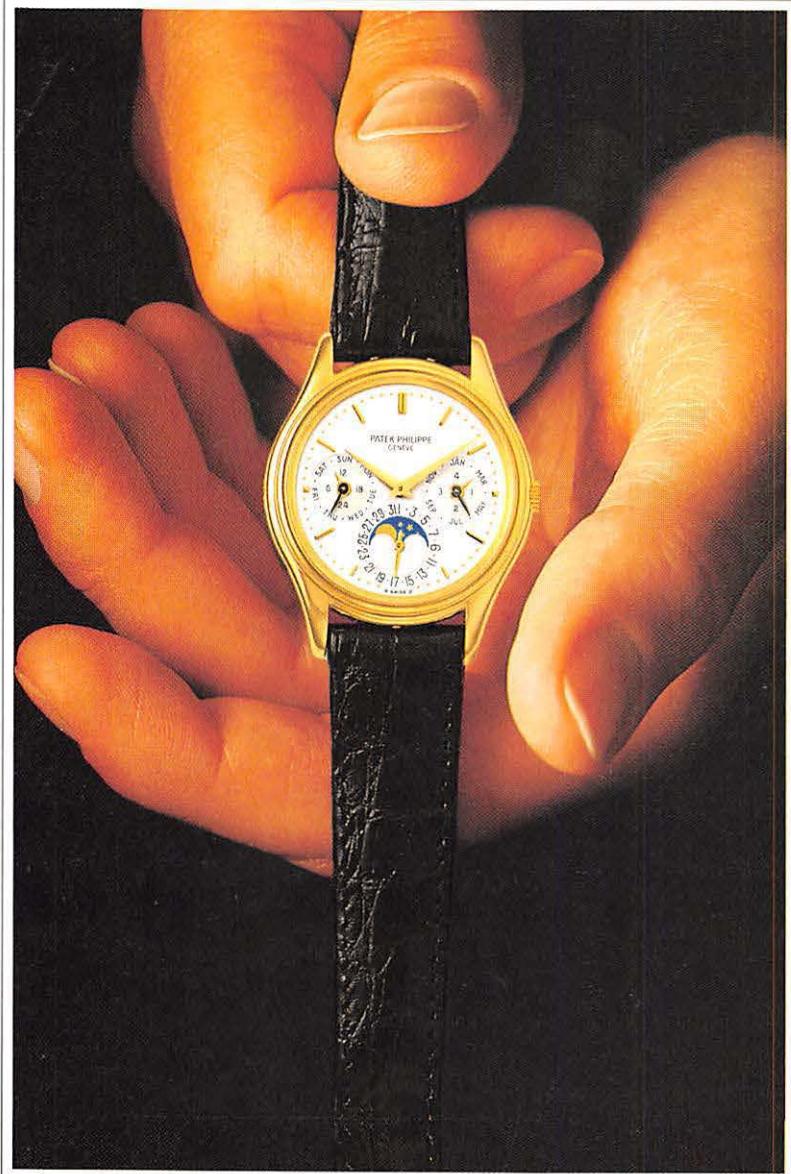
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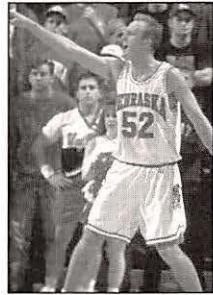


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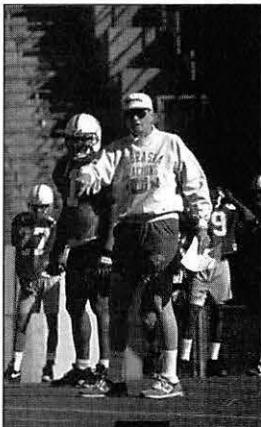
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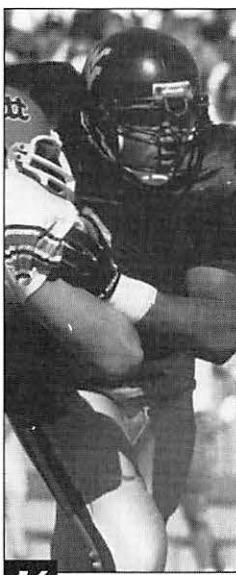
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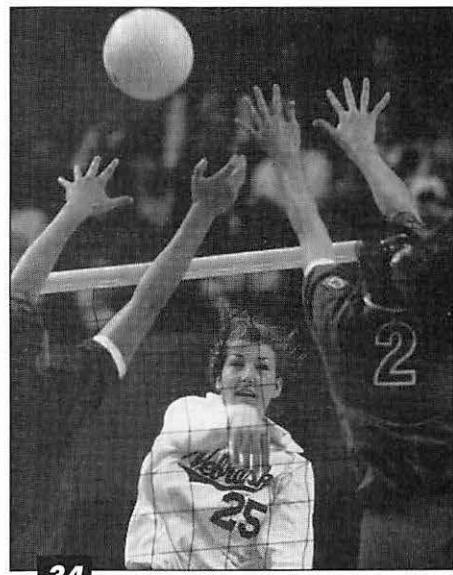
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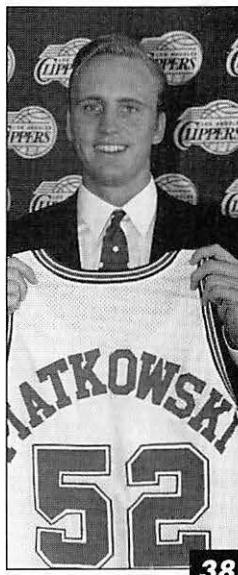
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NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be the first of the weekly football editions. Because of the Kickoff Classic game, there will be no issue previewing Texas Tech. The September 17 issue will review the West Virginia and Texas Tech games as well as preview Nebraska's home opener against UCLA. The magazine should be mailed around September 12.

LETTERS



Although I hate to lose such traditions as the annual Oklahoma-Nebraska rivalry, the expansion of the Big Eight Conference is exciting. I've heard that the proposed name for the new conference is the "Big 12." While this sticks to the tradition of using "Big" in the title, the name is old and tired.

A good name for the conference would be "The Tornado Alley Conference." After all, that's what it is. We already have the Iowa State Cyclones, so why not?

Think of all the great sayings that could be used for TAC games. "The Husker football team swept through Tornado Alley leaving devastation in its wake." Or, "NU brought out the lightning, thunder and hail for this Tornado Alley game." The week before the NU-OU game we could say, "a severe storm alert is in effect for the Norman area."

Not to mention all the great adjectives — stormed, roared, slammed, leveled, etc.

Tornado Alley would be a great name for the new conference.

Christina Shockley
Bristow, Okla.

For the first time in years, I feel as if I really know what kind of team the Huskers will be putting on the field. Your June/July edition "1994 College Football Preview" was the best dose of Husker news I have ever seen. The position stories were first-rate, and I really enjoyed getting to see each of the individual players. Usually I have to wait until the first game to see their faces in the programs. Not this year.

I also thought the conference preview was really interesting. I was excited to see that Nebraska was picked to win the Big Eight Conference. I understand you have to go with what logic dictates. But either way your pick was right on the nose.

Stan Treble
Lincoln, Neb.

Thank goodness football season is finally upon us. Maybe now the

sports programs and publications can focus on something on the field rather than in the courtroom, such as the O.J. Simpson case. I, like many, believe this trial is worthy of national attention, but 24 hours a day is getting old.

After all, only six months ago he was just another former athlete-turned-commentator. I remember seeing him on the sidelines of the Orange Bowl game this year working for NBC. It's hard to believe how far he's fallen since then.

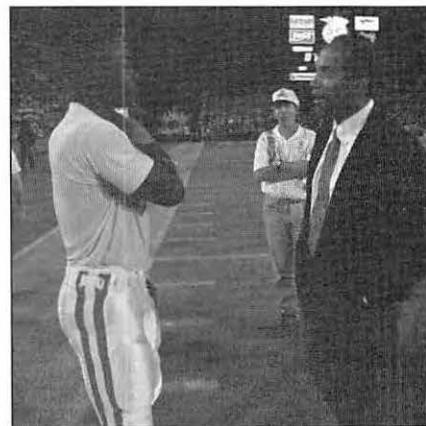
I hope that in the months ahead, Husker football makes it onto my TV — not Mr. Simpson.

Tery O'Reilly
Baton Rouge, La.

Way to go Eric Piatkowski! I thought this young man was a great talent, but not even I thought he would be drafted (No. 15 by Indiana Pacers) as high as he was. It is good to see that even during a sub-par year in the Big Eight that the talent scouts have done their homework. He should continue to flourish with the Los Angeles Clippers. Was he the first Cornhusker to be drafted that high?

Hubert West
Omaha, Neb.

Rich King, the leading scorer and rebounder on the 1990-91 Nebraska team, was picked in the first round by the Seattle SuperSonics with the 14th pick overall. — Editor



The image of O.J. Simpson that many people would like to remember is the personable, NFL Hall of Famer shown here hamming it up with Tommie Frazier (above) and Husker spirit squad members at the 1994 Orange Bowl.

I had one problem with your June/July issue — Nebraska should be No. 1. Forget Florida. I figured you guys couldn't pick the Huskers because it would look emotional.

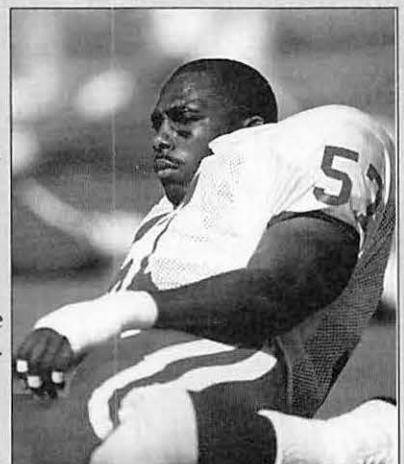
Paul Lubinsky
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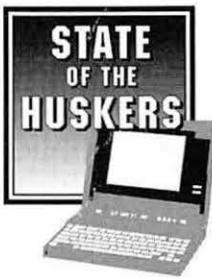
We would like to see your opinions on Nebraska athletics throughout the year. Please send your comments and questions to Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■

What ever happened to Kenny Walker? He was such a great talent despite his handicap. I saw all sorts of features on him when he was playing in the NFL on how he was dealing with playing while not being able to hear. That same year Mike Croel was named Defensive Rookie of the Year. Then there was nothing else ever said about Walker.

Mike Drake
Helena, Mont.

A consensus All-American and All-Big Eight selection as a senior at Nebraska in 1990, Kenny Walker (right) was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the eighth round of the 1991 draft. He played in 16 games in 1991 (starting in one) and started in 15 in 1992. Selected by his teammates as Denver's Most Inspirational Player in 1991, Walker was one of the Broncos' final cuts at the 1993 training camp. He was signed as a free agent by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League in 1994. — Editor





Watch For Rising Costs

Measures deemed drastic by some are needed to keep Nebraska at a level fans have become accustomed to

By MIKE BABCOCK

What price for glory? Nebraska athletic director Bill Byrne is pondering the question.

For the 15th consecutive year, the Cornhuskers had the most successful overall athletic program in the Big Eight Conference, according to a system established by the *Lincoln Journal-Star*. Nebraska won mythical conference all-sports championships in both men's and women's sports.

The cost of maintaining such success is considerable, particularly without the assistance of tax dollars — however limited it might be. That's obvious. But such truths, whether obvious or not, can hurt.

The Nebraska athletic department is facing that reality by taking what some consider drastic measures.

In an early-July press release, Byrne said: "We continue to face increasing costs, not only in the maintenance and operation of all our facilities but in our general operating budget with increases in tuition, fees, recruiting expenses, salaries, etc. Since the collapse of Section 14 in Memorial Stadium, we have asked various engineering firms to review our facilities, and the bill to bring our facilities up to an appropriate standard is over \$8 million.

"This is not to do anything new and fancy. This is solely to maintain the facilities we have now."

Memorial Stadium, built in 1923, is in need of nearly \$6 million worth of maintenance and repairs, not counting an estimated \$1.25 million in expenses resulting from the collapse of Section 14 last summer. The Bob Devaney Sports Center, which opened in 1976, needs nearly \$2 million worth of refurbishing.

And the artificial surface at Buck Beltzer Field needs replacing, at an estimated cost of \$450,000. Plus, the athletic department budget includes about \$1 million annually for retiring the debt resulting from construction of the Sapp recreation center.

In addition, the athletic department is faced with increasing costs related to scholarships and the expense of adding women's soccer

to its varsity offerings. The women's soccer team, which is scheduled to begin play this fall, will have an operating budget of more than \$260,000.

The cost of an athletic scholarship has increased an average of nearly \$2,500 since 1988, according to athletic department figures. Out-of-state athletes can no longer establish residency to reduce scholarship costs.

Byrne summarized this data in a letter sent to Cornhusker basketball season-ticket holders, notifying them of new guidelines for retaining tickets for seats in the prime locations at the Sports Center arena.

"Our plans are that no one will lose the opportunity to purchase season tickets," Byrne's letter said. But those who wished to renew season tickets in B Section and rows 8 through 18 of C Section would be required to make an annual contribution to the athletic department. Those who decided not to contribute would have their season tickets moved to less desirable locations.

In order to stay in B Section seats, current season-ticket holders will be required to donate \$250 per ticket to the athletic department. Those who want to renew season tickets for the padded seats in C Section (rows 8 through 18) will have to contribute \$125 per ticket. Those contribution levels are only for renewals. The requirements for newly purchased basketball season tickets are significantly higher.

New tickets, as well as those transferred to another name, will be assessed \$1,000 per ticket in annual donations in B Section and either \$750 or \$500 in C Section, depending on whether the seats are located on the sides or the ends of the court.

Those who currently donate to the athletic department can deduct the amount of their current donation from such totals. Basketball contrib-

utions also will apply to requirements for the purchase of season football tickets. Football season ticket holders with more than four must contribute \$125 per ticket, beyond the ticket's price.

The new policy regarding basketball tickets was formulated after studying similar policies, both at Big Eight schools and comparable NCAA Division I schools.

There was no way of estimating what impact the new policy would have on season-ticket renewals, but



In order to maintain facilities such as Memorial Stadium, Nebraska's athletic department has had to look to fans for contributions and patience.

initial complaints seemed to be limited. Renewals were to be submitted by July 20, with billings to follow.

Nebraska athletics cannot continue to compete at the present level without such financial support.

"This is a letter that I hoped I would never have to write to the good fans of the University of Nebraska," his message to basketball season-ticket holders begins.

"It's not a pretty picture." ■

NOTEBOOK

On July 30, the annual Shrine Bowl high school all-star football game was held at Memorial Stadium, but NCAA rules prohibit any member of the Nebraska football staff from attending the game. In fact, all high school all-star games are off-limits to coaches.

The rule, which has been in effect for the past four years, disappoints at least one Husker assistant coach.

"It's really a shame when you think about it, that we can't even watch it," said Dan Young, who works with the kickers and offensive linemen. "Most of the kids have already signed, so it's not like it would be a big recruiting advantage."

The NCAA voted in the rule so schools that played host to such games wouldn't get an added advantage in recruiting. Two Nebraska recruits played in the game — Ted Butler of Lincoln Southeast and Brandt Wade of Platteview — and most of the others involved had already decided on what school they'll be attending when classes begin this fall.

About a dozen of the all-stars will walk-on at Nebraska. The walk-ons reported to fall practice on Aug. 20, a little more than two weeks after the scholarship players reported. That's due to another NCAA rule.

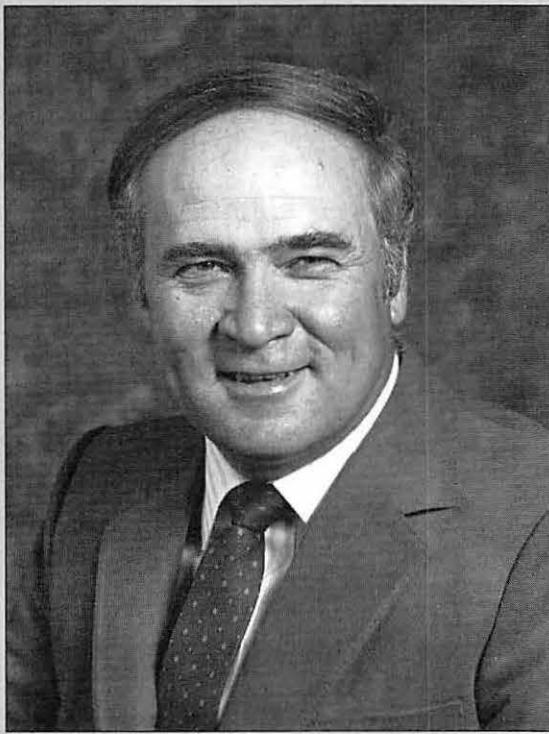
"I can see where the NCAA is coming from, because all we'd have to do to go to the game is go to the office," Young said. "If the rule wasn't there, I doubt if anybody else would send coaches to watch the game and we'd have an unfair advantage."

Nebraska associate athletic director for operations Steve Pederson said the coaches couldn't attend the game because this time of year isn't one of the allowed periods for recruiting.

"This isn't recruiting time, for evaluation or contacts," he said. "You can't be doing anything in person (at the time of the game)."

What Young misses the most about going to the Shrine Bowl is seeing old friends he used to compete against. Young coached at

Omaha Westside High School, where he was head coach in the early 1980s. Fellow Husker assistant coach Milt Tenopir also coached in the Shrine game when he was at McCook High School in the 1970s.



YOUNG: NCAA Bitten Again

So what did the coaches do during the Shrine Bowl? "I didn't do much of anything," Young said. "I had already hung up my golf clubs for the summer."

COUNTING TO 300

Nebraska sophomore split end Riley Washington worked hard during the summer months, but he didn't have a 9-to-5 job. Instead, Washington labored to improve his pass-catching skills so he would be ready to go when practice started this month.

The speedy receiver from Chula Vista, Calif., took a few hours nearly every day to catch pass after pass during volunteer workouts at Memorial Stadium. He didn't leave the field until he caught 300 passes.

"It's something I know I had to do to get better," said Washington, who was listed as the No. 3 split end heading into fall camp. "I knew I needed to work with my hands and I just put in the time."

Washington had some help as he worked out. He drilled with wing-

back Abdul Muhammad, and the two took turns throwing and catching.

Washington's routine began shortly after he finished the spring semester. He took some time to get ready for the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships (where he qualified for the 100-meter dash) before getting serious about football.

Washington put himself in position to earn a lot of playing time with his performance in the Spring Game. He caught four passes for 90 yards and also scored a pair of touchdowns. A year ago, as a red-shirted freshman, Washington saw limited action, playing in four games, and he caught one pass for 15 yards in the opener against North Texas.

"This is my chance right now to get noticed," Washington said. "I'm working hard because I don't want to blow it. I've waited for my turn, and I want to be ready when my time comes up."

LOOKING FOR MORE IN '94

The football players' new motto, "Looking for More in '94," is more than just a clever line. The scoreboard at Memorial Stadium has read "Nebraska" and "West Virginia" every day during summer conditioning workouts. The clock has read "1:16," and the quarter indicator "4" as a reminder of when Nebraska last held a lead over Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl.



WASHINGTON: Working Hard

HIGH HOPES

After suffering a hip fracture on the first day of spring practice, Eric Stokes, a promising sophomore cornerback, spent much of the summer rehabbing. He received a bone graft and came through surgery in good shape. There is a good chance Stokes will be cleared for practice prior to the Kickoff Classic.

Redshirted in 1992, Stokes played in every game except the Colorado State contest in 1993. Stokes picked off a pass in NU's season opener against North Texas and returned it 34 yards. He finished his first season with nine tackles and was listed as a starter at right cornerback before the injury.

HORSE TANKS, THANKS

Two-a-days during August in Nebraska can be brutal. With temperatures in the 90s and equally harsh humidity, a player's body can quickly lose five to 10 pounds of fluid. Since the training staff does not enjoy a large discretionary budget, they have made do with what was available.

To cool players off and prevent heat stroke, the trainers have had horse tanks set up under the south stadium. The tanks will be filled with cool water and several grateful players.

IT'S PURELY ACADEMIC

Three Nebraska student-athletes were selected to the 1993-94 GTE Academic All-American At-Large teams over the summer.

Junior Nicole Duval, a Lincoln Christian graduate, earned third-team honors for the second consecutive year. Duval, who has been a member of the Phillips 66 Academic All-Big Eight team for three straight seasons, boasted a 3.95 GPA in biological sciences. Duval and her teammates captured the 1994 Big Eight women's gymnastics title.

Senior Sumner Darling, who helped the men's gymnastics team claim the NCAA title, was named to the first team for the second year. The Sarasota, Fla., product sported a 3.56 GPA in electrical engineering.

Justin Switzer also earned first-team honors after helping the men's team capture their 15th consecutive Big Eight swimming and diving crown. A finance and international business major, Switzer compiled a 3.98 GPA.

Nebraska continues to lead the nation in GTE Academic All-

Americans. With the three new additions, NU's nation-leading total moves to 117 for all sports.

GET 'EM WHILE YOU CAN

The Nebraska sports information office currently is selling 1994 football posters and media guides. Posters price out at \$2 and guides sell for \$10. The posters feature the team's new motto, and prices don't include postage.

The department is also selling the "21 Years of Excellence" video tape produced to honor Tom Osborne during his 200th win banquet in February. It features rare photos and footage from Osborne's childhood

and days as a player. Narrated by Dick Cavett, it sells for \$30.

Proceeds from the sale of the video go to the Teammates program set up by Tom and Nancy Osborne. The program provides Nebraska football players and community leaders as mentors to students at risk of not graduating from high school. If the students graduate from high school they then are eligible to receive funds from the Teammates foundation to attend UNL or local community colleges.

To get in touch with the sports information office, call (402) 472-2263. ■

If you miss it this time, you can only blame yourself.



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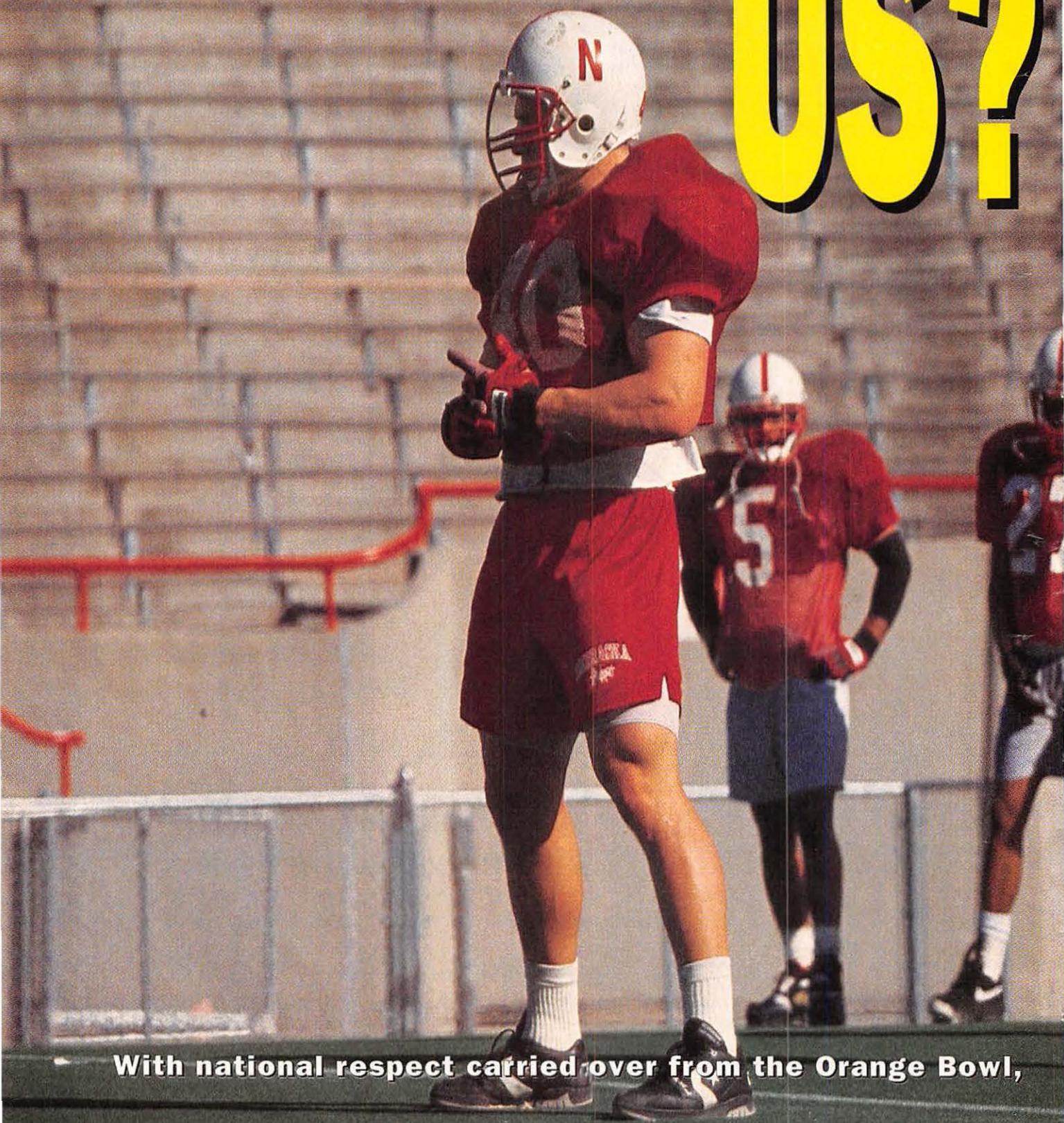
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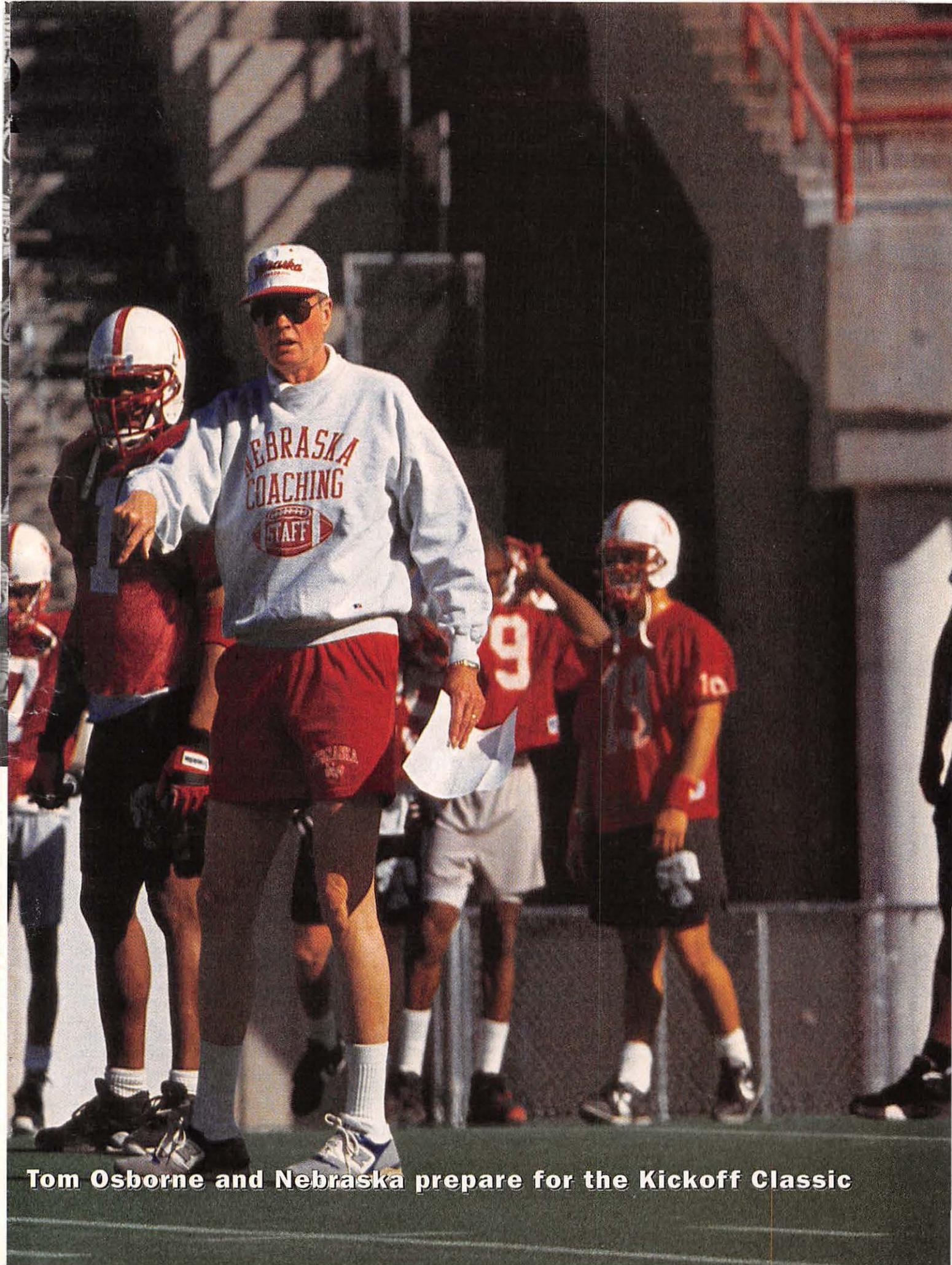
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REMEMBER US?



With national respect carried over from the Orange Bowl,



Tom Osborne and Nebraska prepare for the Kickoff Classic

Tom Osborne was talking one day during the summer about Nebraska's decision to accept an invitation to play West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic on Aug. 28 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The decision extends an already lengthy season, which almost certainly won't end until January, after the Cornhuskers have played in a 26th consecutive bowl game.

It's reasonable to assume that bowl game will be played in Miami — specifically, Nebraska's fourth consecutive Orange Bowl game, as the Big Eight Conference champion. "There are going to be high expectations again this year," Osborne said.

High expectations are a given at Nebraska, which has never won fewer than nine games under Osborne's direction and, of course, has always earned a post-season bowl invitation. But the goals are

even higher for this fall, based on the Cornhuskers' performance in the 1994 Orange Bowl game.

It wasn't until Nebraska came within a last-second missed field goal of defeating a Florida State team regarded as invincible — despite a loss against Notre Dame — that the 1993 Cornhuskers earned the respect they deserved for their 11-0 regular season record and conference title.

That post-season respect has carried over, thanks in part to the presence of an experienced quarterback in junior Tommie Frazier, who was an important consideration in the decision to play in a third Kickoff Classic, according to Osborne.

Chances are, Osborne would have been reluctant to accept the Kickoff Classic's invitation if he were faced with preparing an inexperienced quarterback during fall camp. Although football success depends

on a team rather than individuals, an experienced quarterback is essential.

"An experienced, healthy quarterback," Osborne said. He placed special emphasis on "healthy."

"There are a lot of positions you can point to, but going in, with a fairly tough schedule, experience at quarterback is important, particularly early in the season," Osborne said.

History shows that. Osborne had a two-year starter at quarterback for each of the previous Kickoff Classic games in which his teams have competed.

Turner Gill, who now coaches the quarterbacks, led the Cornhuskers to a 44-6 victory against Penn State in the first Kickoff Classic in 1983, and Steve Taylor directed the offense in 1988, when Nebraska made a return trip to East Rutherford to defeat Texas A&M, 23-14. Gill and Taylor were seniors. But their experience as starters was comparable to that of Frazier.

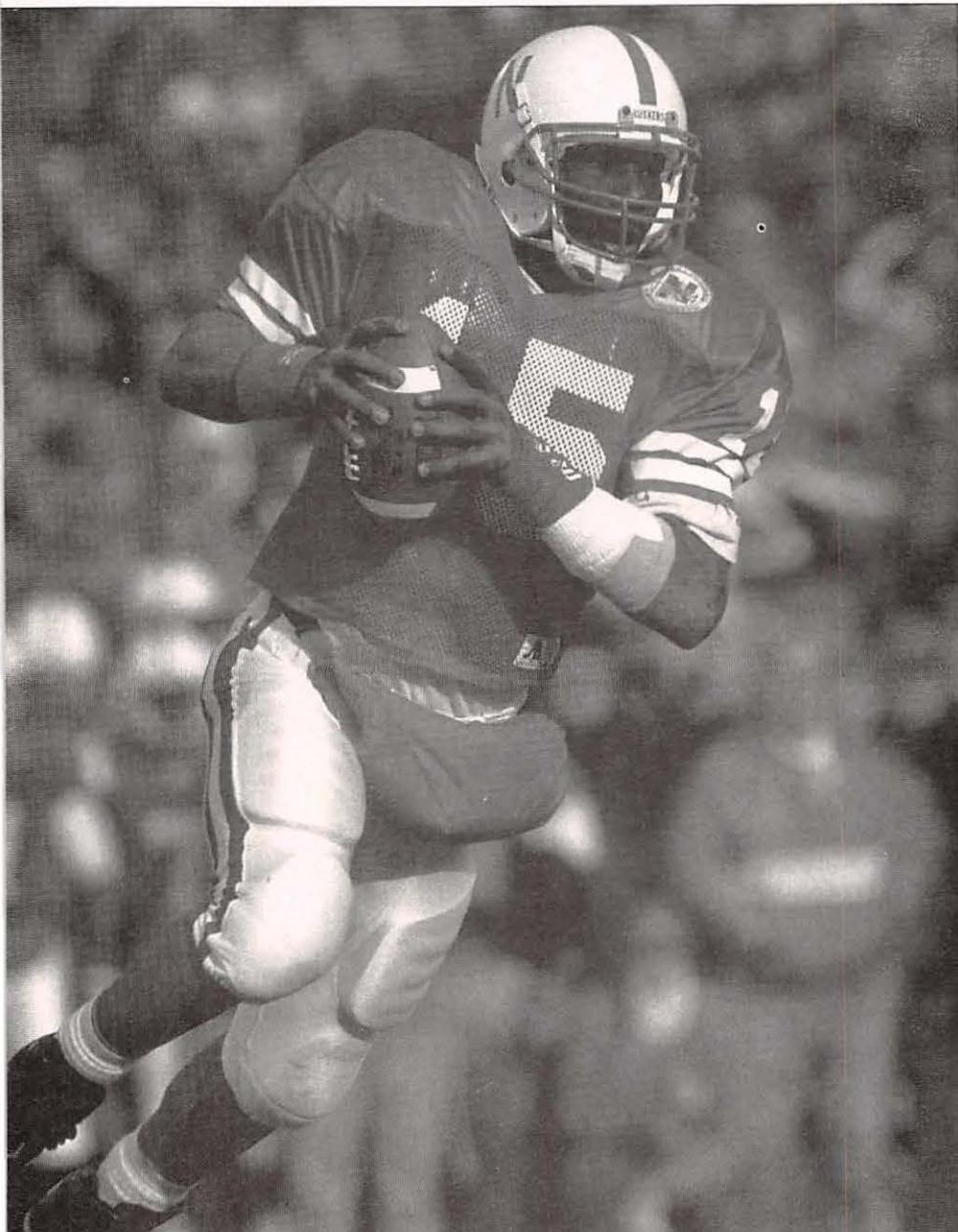
More often than not, Osborne has had a returning starter at quarterback to begin the season — 13 times in 21 years as head coach, including his first, when junior David Humm, a starter as a sophomore in 1972, helped to facilitate the change in the program's leadership.

Barring something unexpected, such as a significant injury, Frazier is likely to become the Cornhuskers' first four-year starter at quarterback in modern history.

Having a returning starter hasn't always meant Nebraska has been settled at quarterback, however. In 1991, for example, Mickey Joseph was a returning starter, but he was slowed by injuries. Joseph started the opener in 1991, before fifth-year senior Keithen McCant came from seemingly out of nowhere to start for the remainder of the season.

McCant had a remarkable season, almost as good as Gerry Gdowski's performance at quarterback as a senior in 1989. Gdowski started every game and shared the award as the Big Eight's offensive player of the year. He rushed for 925 yards and 13 touchdowns and completed 71 of 136 passes for 1,326 yards and 19 touchdowns, with only two interceptions. During that season, a relatively inexperienced Gdowski played about as well as any quarterback has in Osborne's option

Without a healthy and experienced Tommie Frazier, Nebraska would probably have declined the Kickoff Classic invitation.



offense.

Gdowski and McCant were able to ease into their roles, to some extent, during the non-conference season. Gdowski's first game as a starter was against Northern Illinois, at Memorial Stadium. McCant came off the bench in the 1991 opener against Utah State, then started for the first time against an overmatched Colorado State team, also in Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers won, 71-14.

Lining up against Northern Illinois or Colorado State, with the support of 75,000 fans, isn't the same as facing Penn State or Texas A&M in a nationally televised game at Giants Stadium. Nevertheless, both Gdowski and McCant met the challenge when their opportunities finally came.

Nebraska rarely has had a quarterback with as much experience as Frazier. But it also has rarely been as thin at quarterback as it is going into this season. The lack of depth at that most crucial of positions illustrates the risks involved in recruiting more than one top player at the position in the same year. Ben Rutz, a highly regarded member of Frazier's recruiting class, transferred to Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College, where he very well could end up as the starting quarterback this season.

Indications were that Rutz had the talent to be successful as Nebraska's quarterback. What he didn't have, because of Frazier's success, was an immediate opportunity. Rutz sat out as a redshirt his first season at Nebraska; Frazier didn't, joining those competing for the back-up job behind senior Mike Grant, who had redshirted the previous season. Grant started the first five games in 1992, before Frazier got his opportunity against Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Frazier responded by leading the Cornhuskers to a 34-24 victory while rushing for 77 yards and three touchdowns and completing 9-of-20 passes, without an interception, for 157 yards. Until that afternoon at Faurot Field, Nebraska never had had a freshman start at quarterback, at least not that anyone could recall.

Frazier started the rest of the games that season, including the Cornhuskers' 27-14 loss against Florida State in the 1993 Orange Bowl. Clearly, he was a special

quarterback, ideally suited for Nebraska's offense.

Sophomore Lawrence Phillips appears to be more than capable of stepping in at I-back for the departed Calvin Jones, who now is employed by the Los Angeles Raiders. Yes, the Cornhuskers appear to have sufficient talent to compensate for the loss of outside linebacker Trev Alberts, the Butkus Award winner and No. 5 overall pick in the NFL draft.

Yes, the offensive line could be even better than it was a year ago, with Zach Wiegert, Rob Zatechka, Aaron Graham and Brenden Stai as its basis. And yes, the defense should be better with a year's experience in a 4-3 base alignment, but there are some problems as yet unresolved. The status of defensive back Tyrone Williams remained uncertain as fall camp approached, and senior wingback Abdul Muhammad was considering the possibility of a red-



shirt, after the injury he suffered in the Orange Bowl. But the touchstone is Frazier.

Quarterbacks receive too much credit in victory and too much of the criticism in defeat. Osborne is quick to point that out, in an attempt to alleviate the pressure on his quarterback — in this case Frazier.

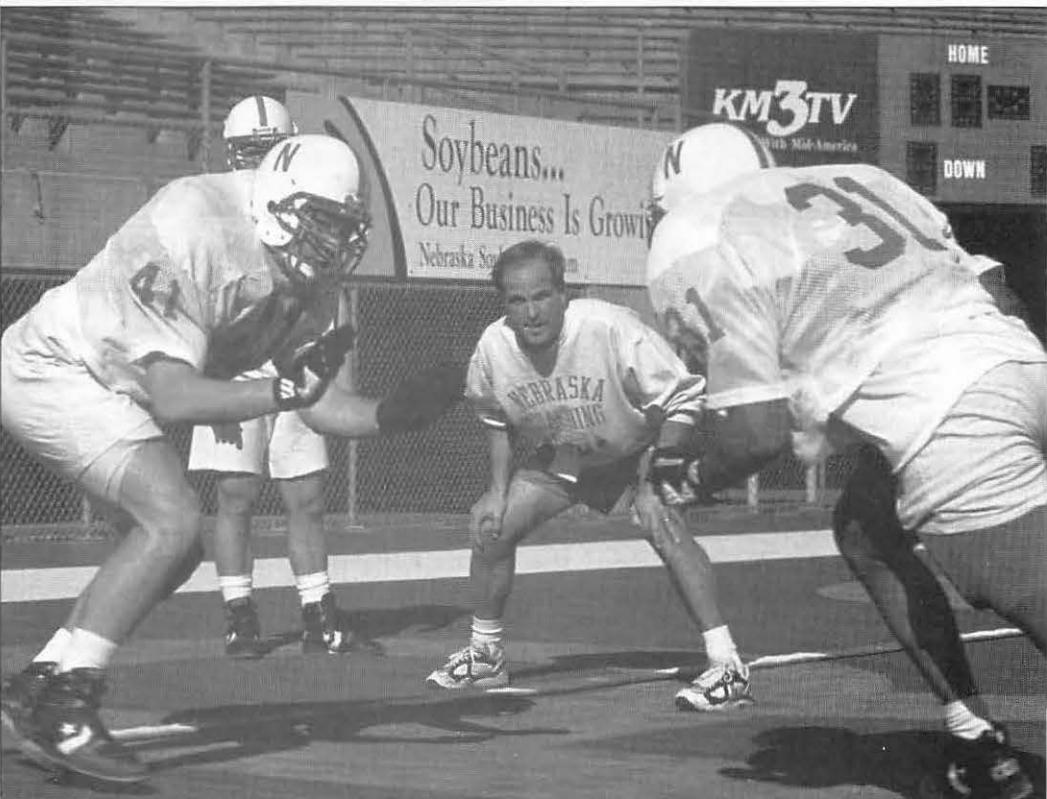
Given the absence of an NCAA-sanctioned playoff and the way the major college football champion is determined each season, it helps a team to be accorded such pre-season respect. Expectations are established before the first game is played. "A lot depends on perception," Osborne said.

Last season was a good example of that principle. The Cornhuskers had to work their way up, after being ranked No. 8 in the Associated Press pre-season poll.

Nebraska earned considerable respect for what it did on New Year's night in Miami. The post-game response to the Cornhuskers was such that anyone who wasn't aware of the game's outcome would have been hard-pressed to determine whether they had won or lost.

That feeling was a result of more than a coach's optimism. Osborne has expressed similar feelings about his 1994 team. Provided, of course, that Frazier remains healthy. ■

After a hard-hitting spring, it appears the Black Shirts have enough talent to compensate for the loss of outside linebacker Trev Alberts (left).





NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Nebraska's freshmen reported Aug. 3, and about the only difference between past reporting days was the size of the group. Sure, Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne welcomed about the same number of scholarship recruits as he had in the past few years, but what was missing was the usual large contingent of walk-ons.

A group of 20 newcomers — that included 16 freshmen recruits, two first-year sophomores and a junior college transfer — began workouts at Memorial Stadium. They were joined by the varsity four days later.

And thanks to a new NCAA rule, a football team can have no more than 105 players until school begins. About 35 walk-ons will join the team Aug. 20, a day before classes start at Nebraska.

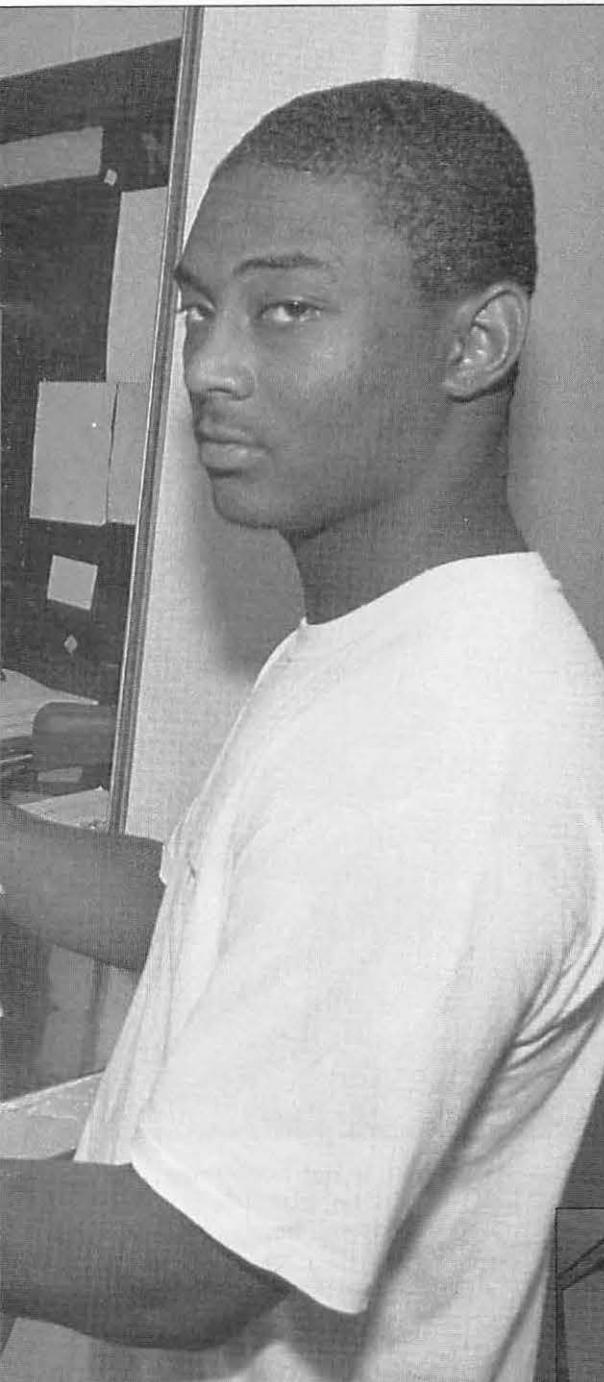
What that means for the Huskers is they won't get the added benefit of practicing against a group of newcomers who will run the opponent's offense for the Aug. 28 Kickoff Classic against West Virginia.

"That makes it tough to get scout teams going so we'll have No. 1 offense against the No. 1 defense and so on," Osborne said. "And it means that top offense and top

defense will have to play West Virginia's offense or defense for a while, too. We've always felt repetitions were good for us, but we won't be able to do as much until we get everybody in practice."

While most of the newcomers won't see action in the first game of the year, Osborne said this group of recruits have the talent to contribute to the team early in the season. But Osborne didn't want to mention any names just yet.

There was nothing unique about the freshmen's first day as a Husker, except that wingback Kenny Cheatham's flight was delayed and



Wingback David Reddick (left) could have the right tools to start at Nebraska, and now he has the equipment to match

of 36.5 inches in the vertical jump were the top marks in both events.

Williams, a strong safety from Gary, Ind., and cornerback Booker gained academic eligibility this summer and were cleared to practice this fall for the first time as Huskers.

After testing, the freshmen hit the field for their first practices. But Osborne's recruiting wasn't done, as he had to coax some undergraduate assistant coaches to run through the drills so there would be enough players to fill an 11-man offense and defense.

"It's difficult to have an effective practice with just 19 or 20 guys here," he said. "That's why this 105-limit rule is so ridiculous because it doesn't save that much money and merely denies opportunities for kids."

Quarterback Monte Christo, an All-State pick from Nebraska, was the only walk-on to report with the scholarship recruits. Christo joined Jon Elder of Sioux City, Iowa, as the only quar-

"It's difficult to have an effective practice with just 19 or 20 guys here."

— Tom Osborne

terbacks to report with the newcomers.

The Huskers had just one new running back come in with the freshmen, but already junior college transfer Brian Knuckles has been noticed.

Knuckles has already been compared to a former Husker who also played at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas. The other back's name just happened to be Mike Rozier, who later became the second Husker to win the Heisman Trophy.

Knuckles rushed for 3,087 yards in two seasons at Coffeyville. He scored 37 touchdowns and averaged more than 6 yards per carry. ■

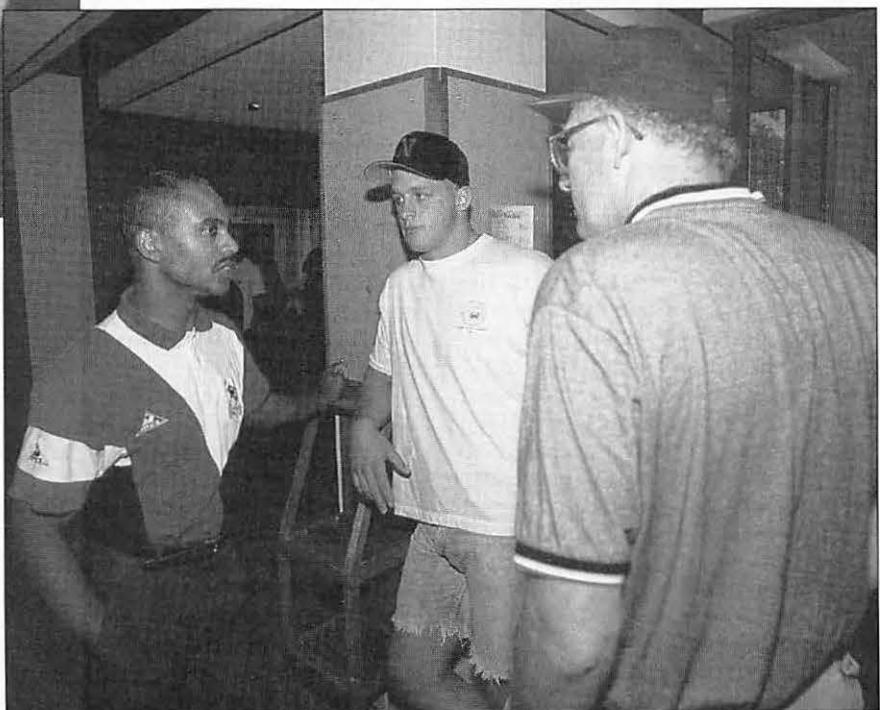
Coach Ron Brown met with linebacker Grant Wistrom (center) when the freshmen reported August 3.

he was late for check-in.

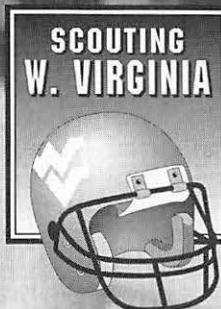
A good way to describe this year's cast is fast. Sophomore defensive backs Jamel Williams and Michael Booker recorded the fastest times in the 10-yard dash during the fall testing. Both covered the distance in 1.59 seconds.

Williams had the top 40-yard dash time (4.61 seconds), while Booker was next at :4.70. The duo were named winners of the first-year Husker Performance award for their improvement on physical tests.

In fact, the pair finished 1-2 in every event but one. Williams time of 4.04 in the agility run and his leap



West Virginia finally gets the game it wanted in 1993



By
Mark
Derowitzsch

Seven months after the fact, West Virginia is finally getting the matchup it wanted — a showdown against Nebraska. The trouble is, the Mountaineers wanted the game during the last day of last year's college football season. Instead, they'll have to settle for it to open the 1994 season.

Bigger trouble than that for West Virginia Coach Don Nehlen is the fact he won't be dealing with the same Mountaineer team that won its first 11 games last season before losing to Florida, 41-7, in the Sugar Bowl. That Mountaineer team tried to convince the powers of college football they deserved a chance to play the Cornhuskers (or somebody) for the national championship.

This Nehlen team probably won't be as good, at least in the beginning.

The defending Big East champions lost 27 seniors off last year's squad, including 11 starters. But that didn't stop Nehlen for agreeing to open the season against the Corn-

huskers in the Kickoff Classic on Aug. 28 in East Rutherford, N.J.

"I think it's pretty obvious to anyone who knows football that we have a tremendous challenge ahead of us," Nehlen said. "Call it rebuilding, call it reloading, call it whatever, when you lose 27 seniors you have some work to do."

Nehlen realizes it will take hard work, and perhaps a little bit of luck, to go through another regular season undefeated. But the Mountaineers aren't afraid of working hard, he said.

Besides playing Nebraska, the Mountaineers play Miami, Fla., Boston College and Syracuse in Big East play.

"Because of our personnel losses, we may not be expected to do as well this season, but that's OK," said Nehlen, who is in his 15th year at West Virginia.

"We weren't expected to do anything last year, either. But I know where the Big East trophy is today,

it's out front in our trophy case, and I know we're not planning to give it up. Somebody will have to beat us to get it."

Early in the season, especially

1994 WEST VIRGINIA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 28	vs. Nebraska
Sept. 3	Ball State
Sept. 10	@ Rutgers
Sept. 17	Maryland
Sept. 22	@ Virginia Tech
Oct. 1	@ Missouri
Oct. 15	@ Pittsburgh
Oct. 22	Miami
Oct. 29	Louisiana Tech
Nov. 12	@ Temple
Nov. 19	Boston College
Nov. 24	Syracuse

Tailback Robert Walker (left) is coming off the best single season rushing effort (1,250 yards) in West Virginia history.

without an experienced quarterback guiding the offense, Nehlen will count on his defense to carry the Mountaineers. He has six starters returning, including all-conference tackle Barry Hawkins (a 6-foot-4, 285 pound senior). Hawkins had 57 tackles and four sacks a year ago. In a 17-14 win at Boston College, Hawkins was at his best, recording 10 tackles and one sack against the Eagles.

Last year, West Virginia recorded one shutout and held its opponents under 15 points seven times. Nehlen said he has no reason to believe that the 1994 version can't be just as good.

"Our defense last year was as good as it's been," he said. "If our veterans that return can turn it up a notch and if somebody comes through for us at middle linebacker, we can be every bit as good this season. On defense, especially, we have an influx of good young players, and that means an influx of enthusiasm. I look for some good things from our defense."

Defensive end Steve Perkins (a 6-2, 244, senior) joins Hawkins up front. He made 41 tackles and also had four sacks a year ago. John Browning (6-5, 260, junior) moved to

A second-team All-Big East selection in 1993, Barry Hawkins racked up 57 tackles from his nose tackle position.



WEST VIRGINIA STARTERS

RETURNING

10

LOST

12

OFFENSE

RETURNING: 5

OT:	Calvin Edwards
OT:	Chris Klick
OG:	Tom Robsock
RB:	Jim Freeman
RB:	Robert Walker

LOST: 6

WR:	Mike Baker
WR:	Ed Hill
OG:	Marvin Graves
OG:	Jim LeBlanc
C:	Dale Williams
QB:	Jake Kelchner

DEFENSE

RETURNING: 5

DE:	Steve Perkins
NT:	Barry Hawkins
WLB:	Matt Taffoni
WC:	Aaron Beasley
FS:	David Mayfield

LOST: 6

RLB:	Derrick Wiley
DT:	Scott Gaskins
SLB:	Tim Brown
MLB:	Wes Richardson
SS:	Mike Collins
SC:	Tommy Orr

HUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Jr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	180	So
LT	56	Rob Zatechka	6-5	315	Sr
	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	305	So
LG	76	Joel Wilks	6-3	280	Sr
	69	Steve Ott	6-4	275	Jr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-3	280	Jr
	51	Bill Humphrey	6-2	265	Sr
RG	66	Brenden Stai	6-4	300	Sr
	65	Bryan Pruitt	6-1	255	Jr
RT	72	Zach Wiegert	6-5	300	Sr
	61	Brady Caskey	6-4	290	Sr
TE	85	Matt Shaw	6-3	235	Sr
	88	Eric Alford	6-2	225	Sr
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	205	Jr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	210	Jr
FB	40	Cory Schlesinger	6-0	230	Sr
	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-10	210	Jr
IB	1	Lawrence Phillips	6-0	220	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	205	So
WB	27	Abdul Muhammad	5-9	160	Sr
	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Jr
PK	12	Tom Sieler	6-5	205	Sr

DEFENSE

LOLB	86	Dwayne Harris	6-2	225	Sr
	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	So
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-2	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	255	So
DT	99	Terry Connealy	6-5	275	Sr
	94	Larry Townsend	6-4	285	So
ROLB	84	Donta Jones	6-2	220	Sr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	230	Jr
SLM	4	Troy Dumas	6-4	220	Sr
	45	Clint Brown	6-1	215	Sr
MLB	46	Doug Colman	6-3	240	Jr
	36	Leonard Alexander	6-1	235	Sr
WLB	32	Ed Stewart	6-1	215	Sr
	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	220	So
LCB	14	Barron Miles	5-8	165	Sr
	2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	Fr
RCB	8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	185	Jr
	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	175	So
ROV	29	Kareem Moss	5-10	190	Sr
	11	Matt Aden	6-2	200	Fr
FS	10	Mike Minter	5-10	175	So
	17	Sedric Collins	6-0	190	Sr
P	6	Darin Erstad	6-2	175	So

MOUNTAINEER 2-DEEP

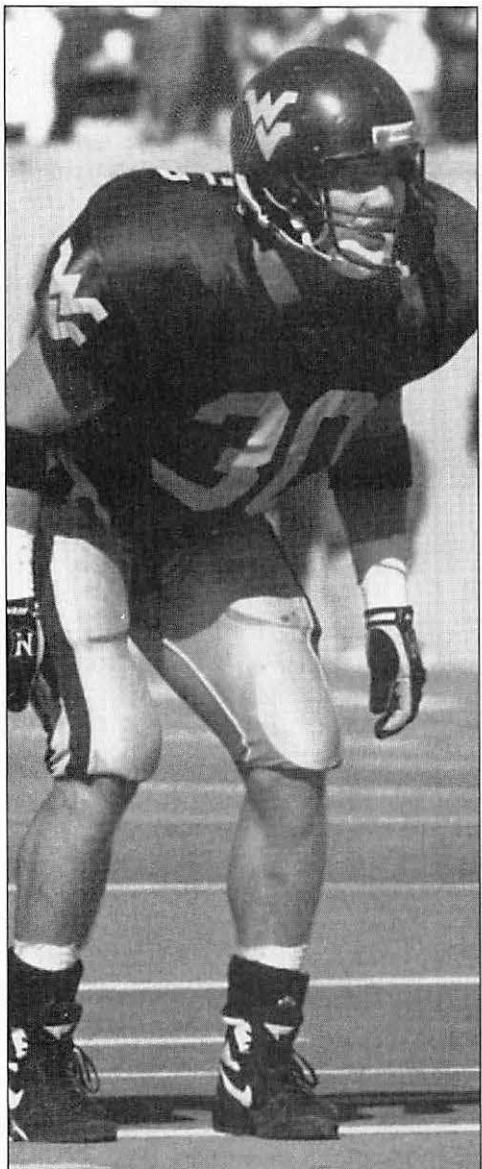
OFFENSE

SE	26	Rahsaan Vanterpool	6-0	169	Jr
	20	Tony Alexander	6-1	185	Sr
TE	82	Lorett Purnell	6-3	230	Jr
	87	Chad Wable	6-5	240	So
LT	76	Calvin Edwards	6-4	298	Sr
	60	Frank Gondorich	6-2	280	Sr
LG	69	Tom Robsock	6-5	280	Sr
	63	Chris Fogle	6-5	285	Sr
C	57	Jay Brooks	6-3	265	Sr
	54	Derrick Bell	6-2	260	Sr
RG	72	Pete Tirado	6-7	310	Sr
	73	Buddy Hager	6-4	275	Sr
RT	70	Chris Klick	6-8	297	Sr
	60	Frank Gondorich	6-2	280	Sr
QB	8	Chad Johnston	6-3	200	Jr
	11	Eric Boykin	6-3	220	Jr
TB	43	Robert Walker	5-11	193	Sr
	21	Jimmy Gary	6-0	215	Sr
FB	29	Jim Freeman	6-0	238	Sr
	46	Kantroy Barber	6-3	245	Sr
FL	47	Zach Abraham	6-0	180	Sr
	20	Tony Alexander	6-1	185	Sr
PK	16	Todd Sauerbrun	6-0	205	Sr

DEFENSE

DE	97	Steve Perkins	6-3	251	Sr
	98	Lenard Mayweather	6-3	250	Sr
LB	42	Canute Curtis	6-2	245	Jr
	85	Clayton Ellwanger	6-3	235	Sr
NT	94	Keith Morris	6-2	269	Sr
	92	Henry Slay	6-3	260	Sr
DT	99	Barry Hawkins	6-4	280	Sr
	96	Mike Horn	6-5	290	Jr
SAM	9	Puppy Wright	6-2	220	Sr
	15	Frank Browning	6-2	245	Sr
MIKE55	55	Bo Chatfield	6-3	220	Jr
	9	Puppy Wright	6-2	220	Sr
WILL	3	Matt Taffoni	6-1	220	Sr
	81	Elige Longino	6-2	215	Sr
WCB	32	Aaron Beasley	6-0	190	Jr
	22	Harold Kidd	5-11	165	Sr
SCB	23	Mike Logan	6-1	195	Jr
	22	Harold Kidd	5-11	165	Sr
FS	1	Vann Washington	6-1	195	Jr
	30	David Mayfield	5-11	183	Sr
SS	30	David Mayfield	5-11	183	Sr
	2	Charles Emanuel	6-1	190	Jr
P	16	Todd Sauerbrun	6-0	205	Sr

Depth charts were compiled as two-a-days began. Performances during practices and newcomers could alter starting and reserve berths before kickoff.



Safety David Mayfield returns for his fourth-straight year in a secondary that could be the bright spot for the Mountaineers.

tackle a year ago and is ready to crack the starting lineup.

The secondary could be a bright spot for West Virginia. Safety David Mayfield is back to claim his starting position for the fourth straight year. Last year, he was in on 70 tackles and picked off four passes. Junior cornerback Aaron Beasley also returns to the starting lineup. He had two interceptions, broke up four other passes and had 39 total tackles.

The Mountaineers will count on a number of other players with some experience to fill in holes in the secondary. Sophomore cornerback Mike Logan recorded 27 tackles and defensive back Vann Washington had 31, while Harold Kidd and Charles Emanuel had 27 and 32 tackles, respectively.

Middle linebacker is one of three spots that concerns Nehlen. West Virginia has just one returning starter — Matt Taffoni — back from a year ago.

"There are three spots we have to focus on, because they are critical to the success of our team, and because we've suffered major losses there since last season," Nehlen said. "We need to solidify our center position, we need to solidify the quarterback spot, and we need

to identify our top middle linebackers on defense. As a coaching staff, those are our most critical tasks."

Taffoni, a third-year starter at middle linebacker, had 67 sacks last year, fifth-best on the team. Taffoni also had two sacks, three tackles for losses, four interceptions and seven deflections.

West Virginia will get a bonus this fall in the return of linebacker Puppy Wright. Wright recorded 14 tackles and one interception in four games before breaking his arm.

Nehlen does have a talented cast to work with at the linebacker spot, though. Elige Longino had 32 tackles and broke up three passes in a reserve role last year, and Bo Chatfield could add depth to that position.

The other two positions of concern for Nehlen are on offense. The biggest may be at quarterback.

Chad Johnson is the only signal-caller who gained valuable experience last year. He completed 10-of-15 passes for 114 yards and two touchdowns backing up Jake Kelchner. Kelchner started 11 games, completing 63.2 percent of his passes for 1,688 yards.

"At quarterback, we're starting from scratch, but we're not without potential," Nehlen said. "Chad Johnson has the most game experience — not a great deal, but some — and we've been impressed with him in the past."

Nehlen also plans to look at Eric Boykin (a transfer from Michigan),

RETURNING CATEGORICAL LEADERS

TOTAL OFFENSE

Player	G	Play	Rush	Pass	Ttl.	YPP
Walker, R.	12	214	1303	0	1,303	5.8
Freeman, J.	12	65	294	0	294	4.5
Gary, J.	5	47	194	0	194	4.1
Johnston, C.	5	14	20	114	134	7.1
Nixon, J.	5	18	98	0	98	5.5
Vanterpool, R.	12	6	61	0	61	10.2

RECEIVING

Player	G	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	C/G
Vanterpool, R.	12	11	146	13.3	1	0.9
Abraham, Z.	12	10	174	17.4	1	0.8
Walker, R.	12	9	26	2.9	0	0.8
Gary, J.	5	2	20	10.0	0	0.4

RUSHING

Player	G	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	APG
Walker, R.	12	214	1303	53	1250	104.2
Freeman, J.	12	65	300	6	294	24.5
Gary, J.	5	47	225	31	194	38.8
Nixon, J.	5	18	103	5	98	19.6

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Ass.	Total	Sacks/Yds.	Int.
Mayfield, D.	45	25	70	0/0	4
Taffoni, M.	32	35	67	2/(-25)	4
Hawkins, B.	34	23	57	4/(-24)	0
Perkins, S.	18	23	41	4/(-28)	0
Beasley, A.	24	15	39	0/0	2
Emanuel, C.	21	11	32	0/0	1
Longino, E.	23	9	32	0/0	0
Washington, V.	15	16	31	0/0	3
Kidd, H.	20	7	27	0/0	1
Logan, M.	16	11	27	0/0	1
Browning, F.	9	7	16	0/0	0
Browning, J.	9	7	16	0/0	0
Hager, B.	10	5	15	0/0	0
Wright, P.	11	3	14	0/0	0
Chatfield, B.	6	3	9	0/0	0
Morris, K.	7	1	8	0/0	0

PASSING

Player	G	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TDs	Int.
Johnson, C.	5	15	10	114	2	0



First-team All-Big Eight guard Tom Robsock, a mainstay in 1993, will be the anchor of an offensive line which returns three starters.

likes the players coming up. Junior Zach Abraham had 10 catches for 174 yards and a touchdown last year.

Sophomore Rahsaan Vanterpool also gained experience last year, catching 11 passes for 146 yards and a touchdown.

"We will need some help out of our younger guys and our freshmen there," Nehlen said. "Those receivers seem hungry and ready to get after that. I like that attitude."

The running back will be the strength of the offense, thanks to Robert Walker. Walker, a 5-10, 196-pound junior, rushed for a school-record 1,250 yards last year. He finished 14th in the country, averaging 108.3 yards per game. He also scored 11 touchdowns.

Senior fullback Jim Freeman gained 294 yards on 65 attempts, giving the Mountaineers a very good 1-2 punch out of the backfield.

"Our running game will be one of our strengths," Nehlen said.

Add everything up, and it should be an interesting year for West Virginia. But Nehlen is taking something else into the picture. Last year, the team learned a valuable lesson during its 11-1 campaign.

"Number one, we have a great attitude," he said. "Our guys know from last season the value of hard work and the rewards it can bring. And they know how to win. That's something you have to experience. Our guys take a lot of pride in what they were able to accomplish last season." ■

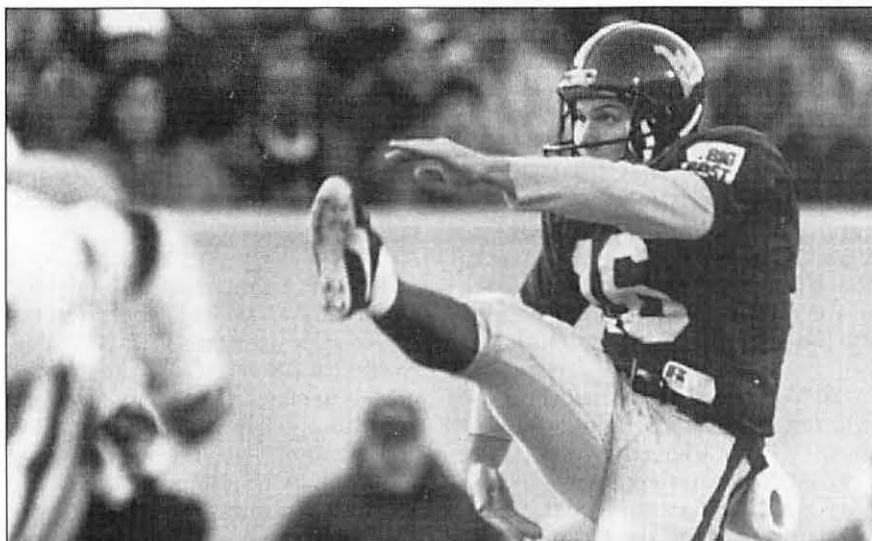
Brandon Bailey and senior Scott Otis at quarterback. "I feel confident that we can find a quarterback to get the job done," he said.

The other hole is at center. Actually, Nehlen must rebuild nearly the entire line.

First-team All-Big East guard Tom Robsock anchors the line. Robsock has started for two years and is a mainstay on the 1994 line. Tackles Chris Klick and Calvin Edwards each have starting experience, though not much.

The Mountaineers lost their top three wide receivers — Mike Baker with 42 catches, Jay Kearney with 29 and Ed Hill with 25 — but Nehlen

The nation's top returning punter, Todd Sauerbrun, could serve as WVU's long place-kicker and kickoff man.



PRESS PICKS



• Norm Hitzges, ESPN:

I like Nebraska big here. West Virginia lost a lot of leadership on the offensive side of the ball and I think Nebraska is going to be a killer this year in college football. **Nebraska 38, West Virginia 17.**

• Doug Looney, Sports Illustrated:

If we can't pick this game, we ought to get out of the business. This is a horrible game. Nebraska, I think they're really strong and will contend for the national championship. West Virginia has lost quite a bit from last year. **Nebraska 35, West Virginia 6.**

• Greg Hunter, Blue & Gold News (West Virginia Tabloid):

West Virginia is going to play well, but it is going to be tough. Their defense is strong, but the offense has plenty of questions. Obviously, Nebraska is the stronger team in this game. Most people here expect West Virginia to lose, but not by much. Nationally, people expect West Virginia to get blasted. I don't think it will be that bad. **Nebraska 24, West Virginia 21.**

• Craig James, ESPN:

I like Nebraska a lot. It's unfortunate for West Virginia to have to break in a new quarterback against a team like Nebraska. But Nebraska is going to get one heck of a test trying to stop West Virginia's ground attack. **Nebraska 31, West Virginia 10.**

• Huskers Illustrated:

Preseason bugs will take their tolls on both teams, but Nebraska should prevail. The loss of Calvin Jones hurts, but the big Band-aid comes in the form of Lawrence Phillips and Damon Benning. Expect one of these potential stars to have a big game. If the Black Shirts can contain WV's running game, this could get ugly by halftime. **Nebraska 49, West Virginia 24.**



TOMMIE FRAZIER

"There are times when you're going to lose and you have to settle with it. But me, I'm going to go down fighting, and even if I'm hurt, I'm gonna go in there and do everything I can to try to win."

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: It's one of the most talked-about subjects in Nebraska every year: Is this University of Nebraska football team the type that can win a national title?

TOMMIE FRAZIER: Right now, that's hard to say because we haven't really gone out and played together as a team. All we have to do now is wait and see how everyone blends in together.

We have quite a few returners who played a key part last year and will play an even bigger role this year, but then we also have some young guys who didn't play major roles last year that will step in this year and be a big part of it, too.

HI: Will you be a better player this season?

FRAZIER: Yeah. Everyone on the team will be a better player. By me having two years under my belt as a starter, that's going to be the major thing right there. I'll work hard and go out and give 100 percent any time I can, no matter whether I'm injured or healthy. Those things right there are the main ingredients for me. And I'm willing to learn. I learn from mistakes. If a player can do that, he's

going to make himself better, even if he's at the peak of his game.

HI: Can this Nebraska team win without Tommie Frazier?

FRAZIER: I think we can. I think we can because we have so much talent here, and the team is so unified. I don't have to be out there, and the team will still win because everyone will pull together that much more.

HI: Could this Husker team win a national title without Tommie Frazier?

FRAZIER: Yeah. For the same reasons. You don't have to have the best quarterback out there if the (backup) quarterback knows what he's doing and everyone else has confidence in him; they're going to play the same as they would with the guy who's the best quarterback in the nation. They're going to give the same effort.

HI: You are aptly named because you remind many people of the legendary heavyweight boxer, Joe Frazier. You are fierce, tenacious, a true warrior, like the great boxer. Where's that come from in the

Huskers' Tommie Frazier?

FRAZIER: I think my competitiveness comes from my parents. I think they had to compete for everything they have now, and I think I got it from them. As far as football-wise, I think if I'm out there on the field I might as well be the best I can because, see, I'm the type of player that hates to lose. I hate to lose. I'm not a sore loser, but I hate to lose — everyone hates to lose.

There are times where you're going to lose and you have to settle with it. But me, I'm going to go down fighting, and even if I'm hurt, I'm gonna go in there and do everything I can to try to win.

HI: Do you ever find yourself telling yourself to calm down on the field?

FRAZIER: I find myself doing that all the time. Against Colorado a couple of times, I was getting in chit-chat with other guys . . . I just tell myself to stay relaxed and stay calm and don't get involved in that kind of stuff. If our players see me doing it, then they're going to start doing it, and it will mess the whole team's chemistry up, so I feel if I keep my



15

EASTON

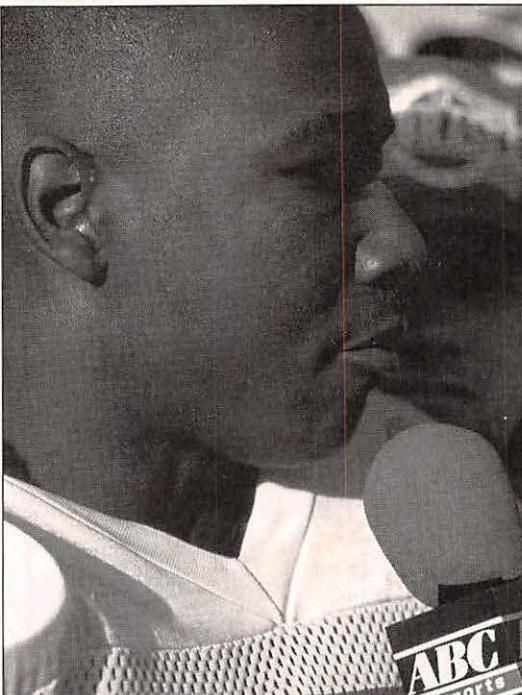
composure and let everything fall into place, it will help me and the team.

HI: I heard that the coaches sometimes have to tell you to lay off your teammates in games and practices because you're too hard on them. Is that true?

FRAZIER: That's true. That's just the way I am. If I feel that someone is not giving me 100 percent — and I'm out there giving all I can — and if he's not, I'm going to get on that player. It may be the wrong thing to do, but I think any quarterback is going to do that. They're out there doing everything in their power to win and if someone's taking a couple series off or a couple plays off then they're going to get on that guy. Even (Kansas City Chiefs quarterback) Joe Montana gets on his players.

The coaches tell me to calm down and try not to say anything negative, and that if you're going to say anything, make it be positive.

HI: Discuss your relationship with



Coach Tom Osborne.

FRAZIER: It's a great working relationship both on and off the field. When I see him off the field, we'll hold a five or 10-minute conversation. He'll ask me how school's going and I ask him how things are

going.

He's very easy to talk to. He's one of those types of people that you can't let him get inside your head because if he gets there he's there for good. In order for you to have a good relationship with him, you have to joke with him. You can't try to be serious with him all the time. If you're too serious with him that means he's in your head. You see, I joke with him all the time.

HI: Does Osborne have a good sense of humor?

FRAZIER: He comes to the meetings and says some jokes that everyone won't catch at first, but when they think about it, they bust out laughing. He has a great sense of humor. He's real subtle.

HI: Discuss your relationship with quarterback coach Turner Gill.

FRAZIER: I think everyone's relationship with him is good. He's young.

Everyone knows he played for
See **FRAZIER** page 43

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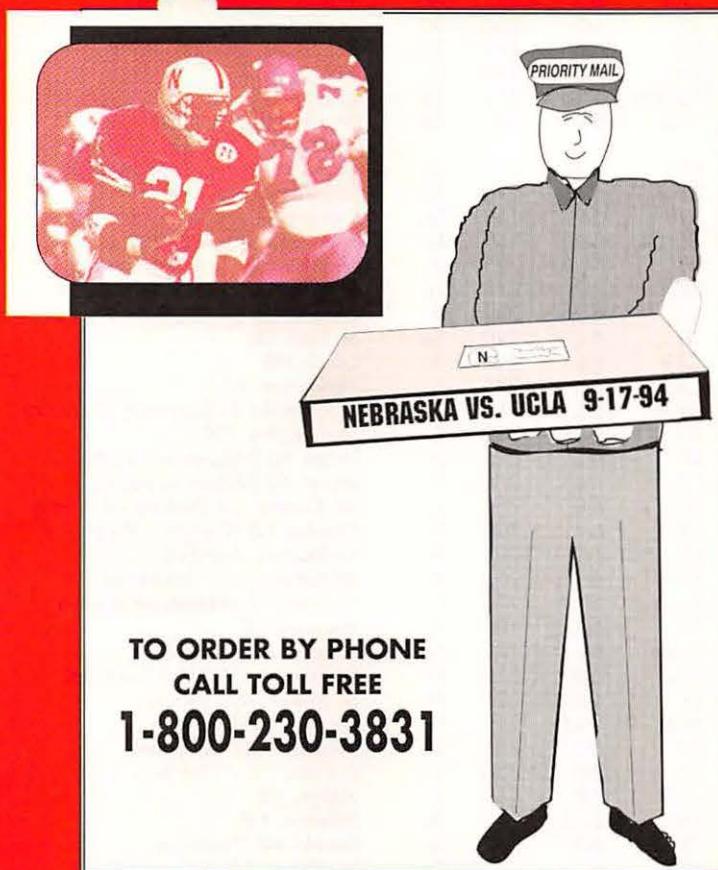


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MAIL TO: HUSKER SEASON TICKET VIDEO
P.O. Box 5273, Lincoln, NE 68505

1994 CORNHUSKER FALL ROSTER

NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HGT.	WGT.	YEAR	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
22	** Jeff Makovicka	FB	5-10	210	Jr.	Brainard, NE (East Butler)
49	John Martin	OLB	6-2	245	Sr.	Wahoo, NE (Neumann)
78	Kory Mikos	OT	6-5	260	So.	Seward, NE
14	** Barron Miles	LCB	5-8	165	Sr.	Roselle, NJ (Abraham Clark)
	Bryce Miller	OLB	6-5	210	So.	Elmwood, NE
10	* Mike Minter	FS/Rov	5-10	175	So.	Lawton, OK
	Ian Mitchell	WLB	5-11	190	So.	Lincoln, NE (Northeast/Nebraska Wesleyan)
55	Christian Peter	DL	6-4	230	So.	Ferguson, MO (St Louis McCuer)
56	Rob Zatechka	OT	5-10	190	Sr.	Spartanburg, SC
57	Jason Pesterfield	DT	5-9	160	Sr.	Compton, CA (Carson)
58	Luther Hardin	OLB	6-4	250	Fr.	Iowa City, IA (Iowa City)
59	Mike Van Cleave	OG	5-10	235	Jr.	Papillion, NE (Papillion/LaVista)
61	Brady Caskey	OT	6-3	215	Fr.	San Antonio, TX (John Marshall)
62	Ted Butler	OL	6-2	280	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
63	Constantine Dumitrescu	OL	6-6	290	So.	St. Paul, NE
64	Jon Zatechka	OG	6-2	210	So.	Grant, NE
65	Bryan Pruitt	DT	6-3	260	Jr.	Henderson, NE
66	Brenden Stai	OG	6-2	285	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL (University Christian)
67	Aaron Taylor	DT	6-4	275	Fr.	Pauls Valley, OK
68	Steve Volin	IB	6-0	200	So.	Locust, NJ (Middletown South)
#68	Jason Wiltz	OT	6-1	215	Jr.	Locust, NJ (Milford Academy)
69	Steve Ott	DL	6-1	275	Jr.	W. Covina, CA (Milford Academy)
70	Eric Anderson	OG	6-1	205	Jr.	Omaha, NE (Creighton Prep)
72	Zach Wiegert	OL	6-1	255	Jr.	Melbourne, Australia
73	Fred Pollack	Rec	6-1	255	Jr.	Midlothian, IL (St. Laurence)
74	Scott Saltsman	PK	5-11	175	Fr.	Camden, NJ (Woodrow Wilson)
#74	Brandt Wade	OT	5-11	180	Fr.	Waverly, NE
75	Chris Dishman	OT	6-1	175	So.	Omaha, NE (Central)
76	Joel Wilks	OG	6-1	220	Fr.	Inglewood, CA (Montclair Prep)
77	Adam Treu	DL	6-1	225	Fr.	St. Joseph, MO (Benton)
78	Kory Mikos	OL	5-8	180	Fr.	Omaha, NE (Gross)
80	Erik Nelson	LB	5-11	210	Fr.	Wichita Falls, TX (Ryder)
81	John Livingston	SE	6-3	235	Fr.	Duncan, NE (Columbus)
#82	Mike Rucker	IB	6-5	205	Fr.	Albion, NE
83	Aaron Davis	SE	5-8	185	So.	Fullerton, NE
83	Travis Tolino	FB	6-2	230	So.	Lincoln, NE (Northeast)
84	Donta Jones	LB	5-11	215	So.	Las Vegas, NV (Chaparral)
#84	Sheldon Jackson	FB	6-4	300	So.	Apple Valley, MN
85	Matt Shaw	Rec	6-1	230	So.	Dunning, NE (Sandhills)
#85	Grant Wistrom	RCB	5-8	180	So.	Lebanon, KS (Smith-Center)
86	Dwayne Harris	FB	5-11	210	So.	Yorba Linda, CA (Anaheim)
#86	Derrick Roy	LB	6-4	255	So.	Palmetto, FL (Manatee)
87	Mark Gilman	OLB	6-1	230	So.	Chicago, IL (Mount Carmel)
88	Eric Alford	WLB	6-1	215	So.	Lincoln, NE (East)
89	Erich Hohl	DT	6-4	215	So.	Wichita Falls (Ryder)
90	Tim Carpenter	OT	6-4	205	So.	Grant, NE
91	Ryan Terwilliger	QB	5-11	165	So.	Wahoo, NE
#23	Todd Uhlir	IB	5-10	210	Fr.	St. John, IN (Lake Central)
59	Mike Van Cleave	OG	6-2	270	Fr.	San Jose, CA (Yerba Buena)
25	Jon Vedral	WB	5-11	195	Fr.	Lincoln, NE (Pius X)
9	** Tony Veland	FS	6-2	200	Jr.	Wahoo, NE (Neumann)
68	Steve Volin	OG	6-2	275	Jr.	Battle Creek, NE
53	Matt Vrzal	MLB	6-1	230	Fr.	Huffman, TX (Hargrave)
#74	Brandt Wade	DL	6-4	285	Fr.	Gregory, SD
3	Riley Washington	SE	5-9	170	So.	Omaha, NE (Benson)
72	** Zach Wiegert	OT	6-5	300	Fr.	Wahoo, NE
76	** Joel Wilks	OG	6-3	280	Fr.	Grand Island, NE
#28	Jamel Williams	Rover	6-2	195	So.	Springfield, NE (Platteview)
8	* Tyrone Williams	RCB	6-0	185	So.	Chula Vista, CA (San Diego SW)
#68	Jason Wiltz	DL	6-4	280	Jr.	Fremont, NE (Bergan)
	Shalis Winder	OLB	6-4	220	Fr.	Hastings, NE
#85	Grant Wistrom	LB	6-5	230	Fr.	Merrillville, IN
#22	Trampis Wrice	RCB	5-9	170	So.	Palmetto, FL (Manatee)
64	Jon Zatechka	OG	6-2	280	Fr.	Webb City, MO
56	** Rob Zatechka	OT	6-5	315	Sr.	Valdosta, GA
						Lincoln, NE (East)
						Lincoln, NE (East)

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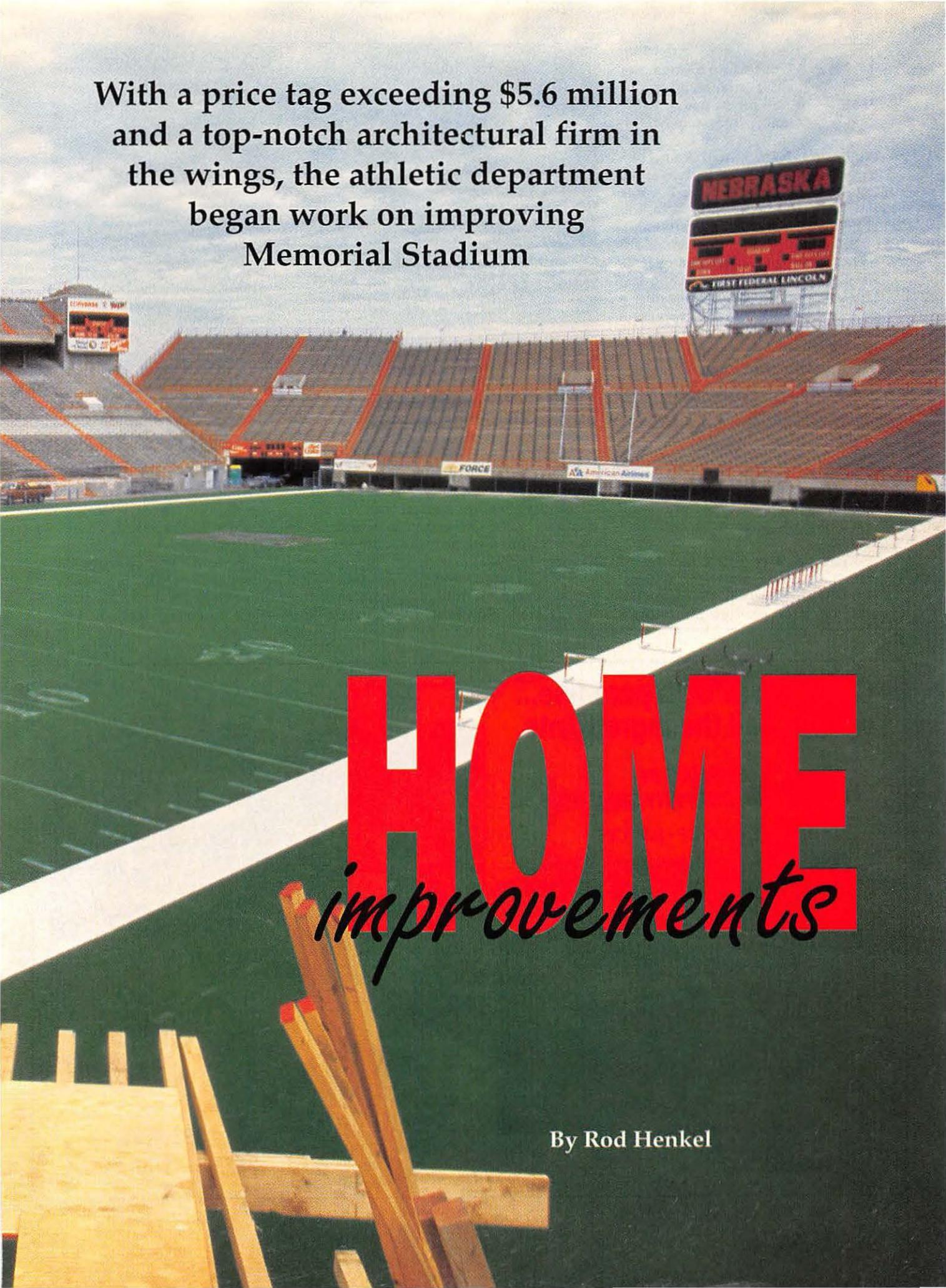
1994 CORNHUSKER FALL ROSTER

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HGT.	WGT.	YEAR	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
#11	Matt Aden	Rover	6-2	200	Fr.	Omaha, NE (Northwest)
	Dave Alderman	Rover	5-10	180	So.	Omaha, NE (North)
36	Leonard Alexander	MLB	6-1	235	Sr.	Detroit, MI (Lutheran East)
88	* Eric Alford	TE	6-2	225	Sr.	Highpoint, NC (Central, Kan)
#31	Jacques Allen	WB	6-2	200	Jr.	Kansas City, MO (Raytown)
70	Eric Anderson	OT	6-4	295	Fr.	Lincoln, NE (Southeast)
23	Larry Arnold	OLB	6-4	220	So.	Copley, OH
	Dennis Bailey	FS	6-2	190	So.	St. Louis, MO (Beaumont)
7	* Reggie Baul	SE	5-8	170	Jr.	Bellevue, NE (Papillion-LaVista)
21	* Damon Benning	IB	5-11	205	So.	Omaha, NE (Northwest)
18	** Brook Berringer	QB	6-4	210	Jr.	Goodland, KS
	Chad Blahak	LCB	5-10	190	So.	Lincoln, NE
#5	Michael Booker	DB	6-2	200	So.	Oceanside, CA (El Camino)
	Chad Brouse	FS	5-11	195	So.	Lincoln, NE (East)
45	* Clint Brown	SLB	6-1	215	Sr.	Arlington, NE
	Lance Brown	WB	5-11	180	Fr.	Papillion, NE (Papillion-LaVista)
	Darren Brummond	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Englewood, CO (Cherry Creek)
62	Ted Butler	OL	6-1	240	Fr.	Lincoln, NE (Southeast)
90	Tim Carpenter	TE	6-2	225	Fr.	Columbus, NE
61	** Brady Caskey	OT	6-4	290	Sr.	Stanton, NE
#16	Kenny Cheatham	Rec	6-4	195	Fr.	Phoenix, AZ (South Mountain)
26	* Clinton Childs	IB	6-0	215	Jr.	Omaha, NE (North)
	Monte Christo	RB	5-11	175	Fr.	Kearney, NE
	Josh Cobb	RB	5-11	218	Fr.	Wallace, NE
17	*** Sedric Collins	FS	6-0	190	Sr.	Slidell, LA
46	** Doug Colman	MLB	6-3	240	Jr.	Ventnor, NJ (Ocean City)
99	*** Terry Connealy	DT	6-5	275	Sr.	Hyannis, NE
#3	Tray Crayton	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Oceanside, CA (El Camino)
#17	Scott Davenport	IB	5-6	190	Sr.	Rye Brook, NY (Port Chester)
83	Aaron Davis	SE	5-11	180	So.	Lincoln, NE
2	Leslie Dennis	LCB	5-8	165	Fr.	Bradenton, FL (Southeast)
75	* Chris Dishman	OT	6-3	305	So.	Cozad, NE
4	*** Troy Dumas	SLB	6-4	220	Sr.	Cheyenne, WY (East)
63	Constantine Dumitrescu	OL	6-5	300	Fr.	Hayward, CA (Moreau)
#19	Jon Elder	QB	6-3	195	Fr.	Sioux City, NE (West)
41	** Phil Ellis	MLB	6-2	225	Jr.	Grand Island, NE
6	Darin Erstad	P/PK	6-2	195	So.	Jamestown, SD
24	* Jason Fisher	SLB	6-1	220	Sr.	Antioch, TN (Overton/W.Kntky)
	Greg Ford	RB	5-10	235	Fr.	Whittier, CA
15	** Tommie Frazier	QB	6-2	205	Jr.	Bradenton, FL (Manatee)
#7	Jay Foreman	DB/Rec	6-3	195	Fr.	Eden Prairie, MN
	Sean Gard	OLB	5-11	205	Fr.	Omaha, NE (Central)
	Ben Gessford	OL	6-2	214	Fr.	Lincoln, NE (East)
87	** Mark Gilman	TE	6-3	240	Jr.	Kalispell, MO (Flathead)
54	** Aaron Graham	C	6-3	280	Jr.	Denton, TX
	Billy Haafke	WR	5-11	176	Fr.	South Sioux City, NE
58	** Luther Hardin	OLB	6-2	230	Jr.	O'Fallon, IL (Althoff Catholic)
86	** Dwayne Harris	OLB	6-2	225	Sr.	Bessemer, AL (Jess Lanier)
	Ryan Held	SE	6-1	175	Fr.	Ovrlnd Prk, KS (Blue Valley Nth)
	Chris Herron	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Scottsbluff, NE
	Josh Heskew	C	6-3	250	Fr.	Yukon, OK (Mustang)
44	Jon Hesse	MLB	6-4	225	So.	Lincoln, NE (Southeast)
92	** Jerad Higman	OLB	6-1	230	Sr.	Akron, NE (Akron-Westfield)
	Michael Hoffman	DT	5-10	230	Fr.	Spencer, NE (Spencer-Naper)
	Quint Hogrefe	LB	5-11	185	Fr.	Auburn, NE
89	* Erich Hohl	TE	6-3	235	Sr.	Gering, NE
5	* Brendan Holbein	SE	5-9	180	So.	Cozad, NE
	Joe Horst	TE	6-1	245	Fr.	Wood River, NE
	Matt Hoskinson	OG	6-1	275	Fr.	Battle Creek, NE
51	** Bill Humphrey	C	6-2	265	Sr.	Libertyville, IL
	Matt Hunting	WLB	6-3	210	Fr.	Cozad, NE
#84	Sheldon Jackson	Rec	6-3	205	Fr.	Diamond Bar, CA (Damien)
96	Jason Jenkins	DT	6-5	265	Jr.	Hammonton, NJ (Oakcrest/ Dodge City, KS CC)
	Jeremy Jensen	Rover	6-2	185	Jr.	Grand Island, NE
33	* Clester Johnson	WB	5-11	210	Jr.	Bellevue, NE (West)
84	*** Donta Jones	OLB	6-2	220	Sr.	La Plata, MD (Pmfret McDonogh)
19	Jesse Kosch	P	6-0	180	Fr.	Columbus, NE (Scouts)
#24	Brian Knuckles	RB	5-11	195	Jr.	Charlotte, NC (West/Coffeyville, KS CC)
81	John Livingston	SE	6-0	170	Jr.	San Marcos, CA (Hemet/Palomar CC/Ariz St)
#12	Octavius McFarlin	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Bastrop, TX

NUMERICAL ROSTER

- 1 Lawrence Phillips.....IB
- 2 Leslie Dennis.....LCB
- 3 Riley Washington.....SE
- 4 Tray Crayton.....DB
- 5 Troy Dumas.....SLB
- 6 Brendan Holbein.....SE
- 7 Michael Booker.....CB
- 8 Darin Erstad.....P/PK
- 9 Reggie Baul.....SE
- 10 Jay Foreman.....DB/Rec
- 11 Tyrone Williams.....RCB
- 12 Tony Veland.....FS
- 13 Mike Minter.....FS/Rover
- 14 Matt Turman.....QB
- 15 Matt Aden.....Rover
- 16 Tom Sieler.....PK
- 17 Octavius McFarlin.....DB
- 18 Ted Retzlaff.....PK
- 19 Barron Miles.....LCB
- 20 Tommie Frazier.....QB
- 21 Eric Stokes.....RCB
- 22 Kenny Cheatham.....Rec
- 23 Sedric Collins.....FS
- 24 Scott Davenport.....IB
- 25 Brook Berringer.....QB
- 26 Jesse Kosch.....P
- 27 Jon Elder.....QB
- 28 Damon Benning.....IB
- 29 Jeff Makovicka.....FB
- 30 Trampis Wrice.....RCB
- 31 Larry Arnold.....OLB
- 32 Todd Uhlir.....IB
- 33 Jason Fisher.....SLB
- 34 Brian Knuckles.....RB
- 35 Jon Vedral.....WB
- 36 Clinton Childs.....IB
- 37 Abdul Muhammad.....WB
- 38 Brian Schuster.....FB
- 39 Jamel Williams.....Rover
- 40 Kareem Moss.....Rover
- 41 Justin Stephens.....MLB
- 42 Jacques Allen.....WB
- 43 Ed Stewart.....WLB
- 44 Clester Johnson.....WB
- 45 David Reddick.....Rec
- 46 Jeff Sakalosky.....MLB
- 47 Leonard Alexander.....MLB
- 48 Darren Schmadeke.....RCB
- 49 Chris Norris.....FB
- 50 Mike Roberts.....Rover
- 51 Cory Schlesinger.....FB
- 52 Phil Ellis.....MLB
- 53 Ed Morrow.....OLB
- 54 Sean Noster.....SLB
- 55 Jon Hesse.....MLB
- 56 Clint Brown.....SLB
- 57 Doug Colman.....MLB
- 58 Marvin Sims.....IB
- 59 John Martin.....OLB
- 60 Bill Humphrey.....C





With a price tag exceeding \$5.6 million
and a top-notch architectural firm in
the wings, the athletic department
began work on improving
Memorial Stadium

HOME improvements

By Rod Henkel

B

ig Red fans attending football games at Memorial Stadium this fall might miss a twisting, reverse-his-field, 50-yard Lawrence Phillips touchdown run because of a trip to the restroom or a wave at the hot dog vendor. And one of Tommie Frazier's option fakes may be too good to catch the first time around.

But no longer will Husker faithful have to rely on a neighboring fan's recollection of the play. Starting this fall, Memorial Stadium will feature a pair of large Mitsubishi television screens that will, among other things, show instant replays (see story on page 31).

The replay screens comprise the most expensive portion of stadium renovations currently, or soon-to-be under way, at the University of Nebraska. Five major projects, with a price tag exceeding \$5.6 million, are designed to "make tickets more attractive," said Joe Selig, NU assistant athletic director for facilities and events.

"The positive thing is a lot of things are being done for the fans. (Athletic Director) Bill (Byrne) is big on customer service and doing



things for the fans."

And the five projects may only be the beginning of facility facelifts at Nebraska.

Hellmuth, Obata, Kassabaum (HOK), an architectural firm in Kansas City, is currently working on a comprehensive master plan for facilities at the university. Expected completion date for the plan is October 1, 1994.

Specific renovation projects will remain uncertain until after the plan is finalized. However, four of the

Workers spent most of the summer working on projects inside Memorial Stadium including water proofing stadium seats.

five major Memorial Stadium changes should be completed by the time the Huskers host UCLA on Sept. 17, according to Selig.

The 17 foot by 23 foot screens, which Selig said "will enhance the atmosphere at the stadium," will be the first of their kind at a stadium used solely for college football. Two

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screens, located in the northwest and southeast corners of the stadium, will run such things as special features, actual game clips and statistics in addition to instant replay.

"We're going to be working through exactly what those productions will be," Selig said.

NU officials know of no NCAA guidelines regulating the use of instant replay. The \$3.8 million cost for the system includes monitors at all concession areas and underneath the balconies, "to ensure everybody in the stadium is able to see the video production," Selig said.

A production studio/edit suite, which will house the control room for the big screens, is scheduled for completion in mid-January 1995. Temporary facilities will be in place this fall.

The studio will provide a place for NU officials to produce the coaches' shows, conduct media interviews, and perform pre-production work on game-day features.

Fans will enjoy better audio along with their new video screens this fall, thanks to the purchase of a new stadium sound system. The \$800,000 project includes speakers on the concourse and in concession areas. In addition to play-by-play information, fans will better understand emergency messages.

"The old sound system was antiquated," Selig said. "This will be a big benefit to the stadium."

Anyone who has been to a game in Memorial Stadium in recent years will certainly appreciate the relief of not having to listen to the high-pitch reverb that used to echo out of the old speakers during time-out announcements and public service messages.

Section 14 in South Stadium, the portion that collapsed in May of 1993, will house the two other major improvement projects. A reconstructed Section 14 has been designed as a handicapped-accessible area, with special restroom facilities nearby and a special ramp.

Following the collapse last year, NU officials installed a column to ensure that Section 14 was secure. But they waited until now to reconstruct the section. "Last year," Selig said, "we focused on making sure the rest of the stadium was safe."

Other minor projects include remodeling of the football office area, addition of a new stairway to



HOK, the architectural firm the Nebraska athletic department is talking to concerning possible renovations, has been responsible for designing and developing the Baltimore Orioles' Camden Yards (above), the Tokyo Dome (left) and the Miami Dolphins' Joe Robbie Stadium (below).



the press box roof, and smaller, maintenance-type items.

Revenues for the current projects came from a variety of funding sources, according to Selig. "It's all a little bit different."

NU officials will sell sponsorships to help pay for the instant replay system, while private donations will be used for the sound system. Monies will also come from capital improvement funds and athletic department operating funds. Fans should not expect a hike in ticket prices next fall to help cover the expenses. "Ticket prices are already set," Selig said.

The major renovations follow a steady list of expansions and improvements made to Memorial Stadium since the original 31,000-seat structure was built in 1923. Schulte Field House was completed in 1946 and three expansions

brought capacity to 65,000 by 1966. The new press box was added in 1967, AstroTurf was installed in 1970, and capacity was increased to the current mark of 73,650 in 1972. Three turf replacements, press box and office additions, and improved weight facilities were some of the other projects during the past 20 years.

To continue that attitude about facility improvement in the future, HOK was hired to maintain, and in some areas improve, the quality of Nebraska's athletic facilities, not only in football but in all sports. Nebraska officials contacted HOK to create a long-term plan about facility needs and how to meet them.

HOK is the largest architectural firm in the United States, according to Helen Maibe, an associate architect with the firm who is one of two working on the University of

Nebraska project. The firm's Kansas City office specializes in sports endeavors.

Byrne has a simple reason for contacting HOK. "The reason we went with HOK is they're the best in the U.S.," he said. "If you look at the stadiums around the country, they are the guys who are doing those. And we want the best, no ifs, ands or buts."

"We're going to be the best, so we want the best."

And the Husker athletic director relayed those sentiments quite clearly to HOK officials. "He wants every sport facility to be the best," Maibe said. "He asked us to look at all the athletic facilities for all the different

sports . . . and what would they need to upgrade them to remain competitive into the future."

HOK, with offices all over the country and the world, has proven its quality on noted projects throughout the United States. The Kansas City office, which includes 150 architects and planning and support staff all working on athletic projects, has assisted with facilities for numerous Major League Baseball, National Football League and college programs.

Maibe notes the Baltimore Orioles' Camden Yards, Jacobs Field of the Cleveland Indians, and United Center for the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks as recent prominent

projects. Stadiums for the Colorado Rockies and new NFL franchise Carolina Panthers were planned by HOK.

Before Nebraska undertakes any building projects, though, officials from NU and HOK will complete a detailed plan and establish a direction for the school's facilities. "It will help them to organize their resources and set priorities," Maibe said.

The firm has guided such institutions as Missouri, Oklahoma and Ohio State through similar master plans. It's a trend Maibe sees as continuing. "With gender equity," she said, "there's a renewed interest in assessing facilities."

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The process at Nebraska began early this year when HOK personnel came to Lincoln for four consecutive weeks to gather data. They interviewed approximately 30 people, including coaches, custodians, secretaries and medical personnel. HOK officials talked to "everybody who is involved with the athletic department," Maibe said. "What they want, what doesn't work, what they would like to have in an ideal facility."

Information collected was studied and an executive committee met in late April to review it. A conception design, which shows "how blocks of space might be utilized," is developed and the final result will be a detailed written document of "what we're proposing," Maibe said.

Design work began in early May.

After blue prints are finalized, NU officials can then decide on individual projects to accomplish the goals of the master plan.

Byrne and Selig are keeping HOK personnel abreast of current projects being done at NU. "As they develop their plan," Selig said, "they need to be aware of facilities that do not exist but will before the plan is finalized."

It's premature for Maibe to speculate on possible projects. But she has received directions from Byrne on some specifics.

The NU athletic director wants a rich, traditional look for the facilities and increased revenue potential. To the second end, HOK will examine the possibility of a hall of fame, souvenir store and skyboxes.

Maibe said skyboxes will be examined for both Memorial Stadium and the Bob Devaney Sports Center, although she admits it may not be possible for the Sports Center. ■

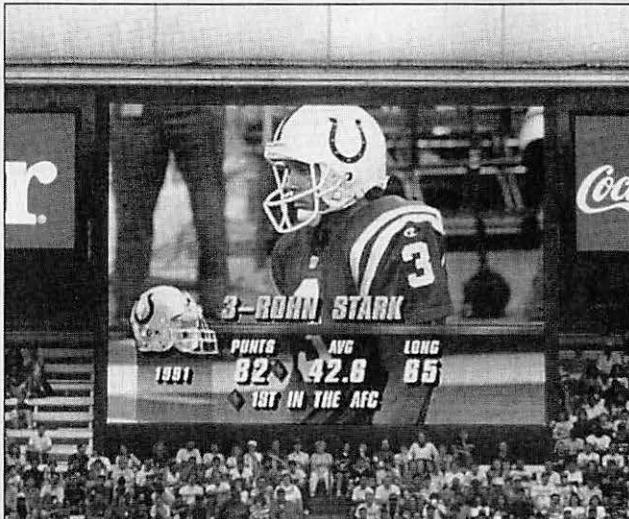
SEEING IS BELIEVING

This fall two 17 foot by 23 foot screens located in the northwest and southeast corners of Memorial Stadium will keep fans on top of the game with instant replays, statistical information and promotional spots.

The video improvements, only one part of a nearly \$6 million renovation plan, are contracted through the Mitsubishi Corporation. The Nebraska selection team, which includes Athletic Director Bill Byrne, selected Mitsubishi after visiting with three other companies.

The video display system is one of Mitsubishi's third generation of big screens (Mark III). The first Diamond Vision system was installed at Dodger Stadium in 1980. Since then over 40 systems have been installed across North America. The closest to Nebraska are the screens in Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City and Mile High Stadium in Denver.

The third generation of Mitsubishi big screens feature much higher resolution than their originals. A fan seated 40 feet or more away from a screen will see a smooth picture — similar to what might be seen in the average living room. A fan sitting within 20 feet will notice a little graininess.



Husker faithful will now have the opportunity to see replays on screens such as this one at the Indiana Hoosier Dome.

Cameras will be placed around the stadium to capture the action on the field from various angles. A sideline camera is also a possibility.

The screens will also help players too short to see the action from the sidelines — notoriously the worst area from which to watch a game. In the past, players under 6-foot-3 had to look into teammates' shoulder pads. Now players will have to deal with neck strain. ■

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All In A Day's Work

NCAA rules changes help bring Nebraska alumnus Steve Pederson back to campus

By JAMES HALE

Football recruiting at the University of Nebraska will have a bit of a new look this season. Gone is Dave Gillespie, former Nebraska recruiting coordinator. Gillespie took an assistant coaching position, in charge of recruiting with the University of Kansas.

Also gone is the recruiting coordinator position itself.

The NCAA-mandated rule changes that abolished the position and forced head coaches to make a very difficult decision. Each coach had to decide if he wanted to work with nine full-time assistant coaches without a coordinator or eight full time coaches plus a recruiting coordinator.

With Gillespie moving to Kansas, coach Tom Osborne will still have his nine full-time coaches on staff. He decided many of the former duties of the recruiter coordinator would be handled within the staff. However, Osborne did bring in a very noted administrator with a proven track record in the recruiting game to help with the recruiting effort from a management standpoint.

Steve Pederson is not a football coach and points out that he never has been. Pederson's official title is



Associate Athletic Director of Football Operations. He will oversee all areas of Nebraska's football operations, which include recruiting. Pederson held the title of recruiting coordinator at Nebraska in 1982, before leaving to go into private business in 1986. After a stint at

Steve Pederson (center) and his family (clockwise, left to right) Kari, Mark, Tami and Kristin are glad to be back in Nebraska.

Ohio State (1988-91) the University of Tennessee picked him up.

During that time Tennessee (1991-93), Pederson put together three consecutive recruiting classes that were ranked in the top three in the nation among many of the top recruiting publications. Pederson decided to return and take a position with the Nebraska athletic department after an eight year absence. He, like so many former recruiting coordinators across the country, has moved to within the athletic department with a new title and different duties.

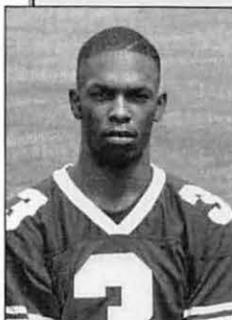
"When it really comes down to it, all your football operations combine into your recruiting effort," Pederson said. "Everything your football program does effects recruiting. The nine coaches on the staff are the only ones who can watch film, talk to recruits on the phone, make contact with them off campus and evaluate their abilities."

"My job is an oversight in all

CHEATHAM JOINS '94 CLASS

One recruiting note. Kenny Cheatham (6-5, 190, 4.5), a wide receiver out of Phoenix, Ariz., officially signed with the Huskers late in the summer. The all-state selection at South Mountain High School chose the Huskers over Tennessee. Cheatham led South Mountain to the state football championship. He had made it known he was interested in playing basketball collegiately, which scared off some schools. Nebraska, however, stayed after the prep star after the February signing day.

Nebraska did lose out on defensive back Amp Campbell of Sarasota (Riverview), Fla. Campbell held off on signing with any school during the signing period while waiting on ACT results. It had been rumored he would come to Nebraska if he passed. Campbell did pass, but is going to the University of Michigan. ■



Amp Campbell

areas of football operations which includes recruiting. I work from an administration standpoint while our coaches on the field work from the field stand point."

That puts the major on-field recruiting effort squarely on the shoulders of the nine on-field assistants.

"Coach Osborne believes he should be out recruiting and getting involved in the process," Pederson said. "So, that is how we are going to precede in the recruiting effort. At Tennessee we took one person off the road full-time. That gives you an example how some people do it, but Coach Osborne wants a rotation of seven among 10 and that is what we feel be the most successful way for us to handle the recruiting area."

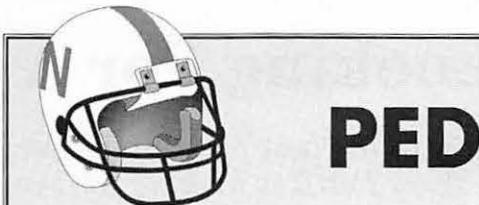
The one new rule change that may hurt Nebraska's recruiting efforts more than any other is the reduction of paid official visits from 85 to 56. Nebraska has been one of the best national recruiting teams in the country, but with the reduction in the number of official visits the Husker coaching staff will have to be very certain of who they bring.

"You have to be careful as you reduce the number of visits that you don't bring in athletes that are just coming to look and aren't very serious about signing with us," Pederson said. "It is going to be so important that we make good decisions on who we bring in and how we spend our visits."

"We haven't been in favor of any reductions in those visitation numbers because our percentages are going to be a little bit different because we recruit nationwide," Pederson said. "When I was at Ohio State I am not sure we ever used 56 visits. Most of the kids we signed were from the state of Ohio and we probably used 45 official visits to the campus."

"Obviously, every step you take away from your campus makes it difficult for you to sign that athlete. At Tennessee we had the same situation that Nebraska does in that we had to recruit from a distance, so when you cut down our visit numbers then it works to our disadvantage. Now, we will just have to do a better job as to our thoroughness. Fortunately, we have such a great staff that we have a great opportunity to succeed despite the reduced numbers."

The state of Nebraska doesn't produce a great number of recruits every year.



STEVE

PEDERSON

Associate Athletic Director,
Football Operations



CAPSULE: Pederson returns, after an eight-year absence, to the University of Nebraska after spending three seasons at the University of Tennessee. He went to UT in 1991 and served as recruiting coordinator. A year later, he was tabbed as the Vols' associate athletic director for football operations in the spring of 1993. In his three seasons at UT, the Volunteers' recruiting classes were regarded among the nation's top three nationally by several publications including *Huskers Illustrated*. Last year's class ranked as the best in many polls.

Before joining the Volunteer staff, Pederson served as Ohio State's recruiting coordinator from 1988 through 1991.

After graduating from Nebraska in 1980, he spent a year in the Nebraska sports information office. Pederson served on Tom Osborne's staff in a recruiting coordinator/administrative assistant in 1982.

BORN: October 24, 1957 in North Platte, Neb.

HIGH SCHOOL: North Platte Senior High

EDUCATION: University of Nebraska, B.S. in business administration, 1980

COACHING CAREER: Nebraska sports information assistant, 1980-81; Nebraska recruiting coordinator, 1982-86; Ohio State recruiting coordinator, 1988-91; Tennessee recruiting coordinator/assistant athletic director for recruiting/associate athletic director for football operations, 1991-94; Nebraska associate athletic director for football operations, 1994-Present

FAMILY: Wife: Tami Osborne Pederson; Children: Mark, Kari, Kristin

Nine to 10 athletes annually come out of Nebraska to gain Division 1-A scholarships.

However, there are always three or four athletes who everybody in the country would love to have. The key is to keep those athletes in state. Scott Frost and Ty Goode are examples of two high profile athletes that left the state to go to Stanford and Notre Dame, respectively. Of course Nebraska does sign 90 percent of the in-state athletes they covet and Pederson hopes that trend continues.

"It's always the first goal you have, to keep every player that you want to sign in your own state," Pederson said. "The interesting thing in some cases is that those ath-

letes that leave the state and a big production is made to the fact he is leaving, doesn't always effect the local university as much as everybody thinks. Writers and others make a big production of it, but in reality, our coaches weren't that high on him. I guess the most important thing is for you to get the guys."

"You are always disappointed when guys leave your state, but if those times are few and far times in between then you can live with that."

The Huskers are already in some of the most talented athletes in the country and it will be interesting to see how the staff works with the new limitations of 56 visits. ■



Looking For A Rebound

With three of the best position players in the country under his direction, Terry Pettit is looking for the volleyball team to recapture its lost title this season

By STEVE SIPPLE

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit will rely heavily on a talented threesome during the 1994-95 season, which begins with the Sept. 2-3 Purdue Invitational in West Lafayette, Ind.

If the Huskers are going to continue their past success, they will need season-long steadiness from three key players — setter Christy Johnson and middle blockers Jen McFadden and Allison Weston.

"All three are very strong players," Pettit said. "I don't know of any team in the country that has players better in those positions."

Pettit is hoping that talent leads them into the NCAA Tournament for the 13th straight year.

Johnson will be at the controls after sitting out last season as a red-shirt, allowing her to watch Nikki Stricker run the show. Johnson has two seasons of eligibility remaining.

"Christy is probably as good as any setter I've seen when the passing breaks down," Pettit said. "She still gets to the ball and sets a hit-table ball."

"And her relationship with the team is strong; they play hard for her."

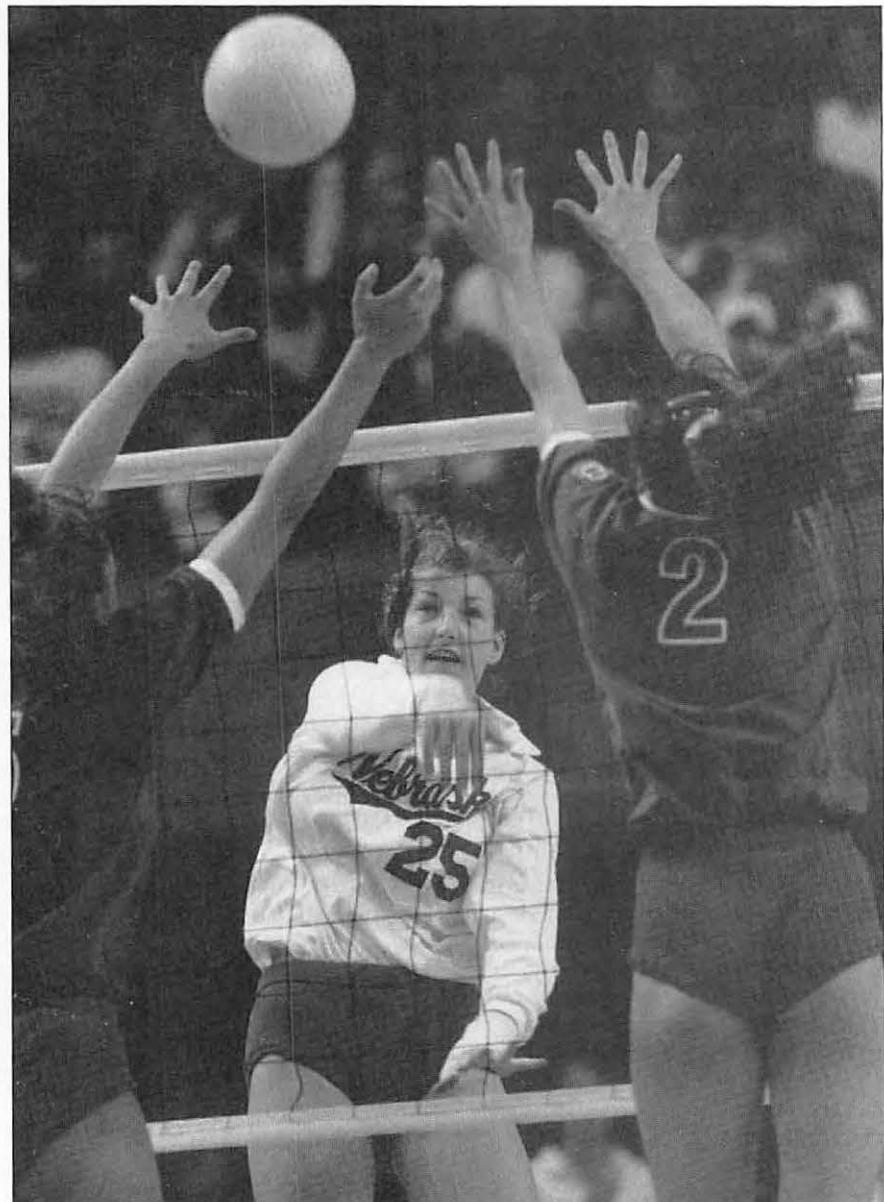
In 1992, Johnson was a key player in Nebraska's drive for its 17th straight Big Eight championship (Colorado ended the Huskers' league run last season). She played in all 28 matches in 1992 and was voted Big Eight Conference Backcourt Specialist of the Year. You may remember Johnson for taking over the setting duties in a first-round NCAA Tournament victory over Colorado in 1992.

Johnson, a 5-foot-9 graduate of Omaha Millard North High School, replaces standout Stricker, who completed her eligibility.

Johnson will have a couple of tall, mobile targets at the net in Weston and McFadden.

Weston, a 6-0 junior out of Papillion-LaVista High School, was named first-team Division I-A All-America by the American Volleyball Coaches' Association after last season.

The 6-3 McFadden was a starter



As a freshman last season, Jen McFadden (above, 25) established herself as one of the team's main weapons. Freshman Lisa Reitsma (right) has the potential to be the next young star.

who quickly established herself as one of the team's main weapons although she was only a freshman.

In addition to Weston and McFadden, the Huskers return three other starters from last



year's 25-6 squad, which lost to Notre Dame in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Billie Winsett, a 5-11 junior hitter, was impressive hitting the ball at the U.S. Olympic Festival last summer and is probably one of the finest passers in Nebraska's history, according to Pettit. Two other solid hitters return in 5-11 senior Kelly Aspegren and 5-10 sophomore Maria Hedbeck, although Pettit said Hedbeck missed spring workouts with an injury to her hitting shoulder. In late July, he said he wanted to wait until the start of practice in August to see if she would be available for the season.

Pettit was counting on freshman Stacie Maser, a 6-1 middle blocker out of Lincoln Northeast, to play a significant role this season, but Maser tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee June 19 in the championship match of the Minnesota Volleyball Festival in

Minneapolis. The knee required reconstructive surgery.

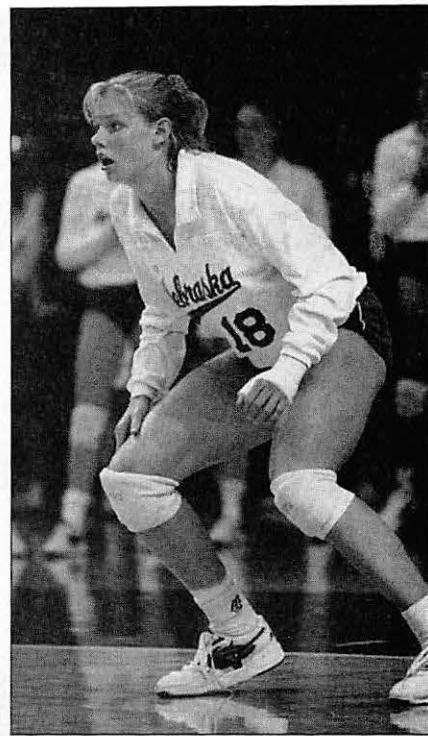
Pettit said he might have used Maser as a middle blocker, with Weston moving to left-side hitter.

"I still think Maser will be a great player, but not for a year down the road," Pettit said.

Pettit said that by mid-season, his other recruit for 1994, Lisa Reitsma of Hull, Iowa, will be seeing ample playing time. As a high school senior, Reitsma, a 6-3 right-side hitter, led her team to the Iowa state championship, was named the MVP of the state tournament and was also MVP of the Iowa all-star game.

"She's very inexperienced, but she's also a great athlete and a dominant net player," Pettit said. ■

An American Volleyball Coaches' Association All-American last year, junior Allison Weston (18) will provide a tall, mobile target at the net in 1994.



Bob Berry

A FRESH(MAN) START FOR LADIES SOCCER

It was mid-July, and John Walker had ordered the stationery, office furniture and necessary soccer equipment.

He had handled much of the paperwork that goes with starting an NCAA-sponsored varsity sport in a big-time athletic program.

On this sweltering July day in Lincoln, Neb., Walker was eagerly awaiting Aug. 14, the day Nebraska women's soccer team began practice for its inaugural season.

"As a coach, what I like to do is be on the field," Walker said. "That's what gives me the most gratification."

Walker, who started his job April 1, said he planned to bring 35 players to the start of practice and then cut the roster to about 23 players by the Sept. 6 opener against Creighton in Lincoln.

Walker envisioned a roster with about 10 scholarship players. By mid-July, five Nebraskans had already signed letters of intent: Brenda Sieczkowski of Omaha Duchesne; Carrie Strope of Lincoln Southeast; Stephanie Vacek of Papillion-LaVista; Alison Dudley of Millard South; and transfer Kim Ratliff, a former Millard South standout who started for Marquette last season as a freshman.

Besides the 10 scholarship players, the remaining 13 or so athletes on the roster will be walk-ons, Walker said. He said the inaugural roster will mostly have freshmen.

"We have quite a few walk-ons who are quite good and who had opportunities to go to schools on scholarship money that chose to come here, instead," Walker said.

Walker said he wants "a national-type program. We'll get players from places like California, Texas and Canada, but we'll probably end up with more from the

Midwest.

"At the same time, we don't want to build just a regional team. You want to get the best players in this area but bring in players from other areas, too."

Walker, who had coached the men's varsity soccer team at Queen's University in Canada since 1987 before accepting the Huskers job, called the enthusiasm for soccer in Nebraska "tremendous." And he said he wants to work closely with community soccer programs.

The volunteer coaches and parents are super-committed," he said. "I get calls all the time from parents and coaches who have soccer questions."

Nebraska is scheduled to play 19 games, including nine at home. The Huskers will play such teams as Texas, Arizona and Michigan, schools that also feature new programs, Walker said.

An Oct. 23 match against Stanford, at Colorado College, will be among the toughest, Walker said.



Coach John Walker's inaugural soccer squad will be built with mainly walk-on players.

"If you want to build a nationally prominent program, you have to play good teams," Walker said. "One, it gives players an idea of the level of excellence you want. Secondly, if you play well, you give notoriety to your program. And thirdly, competitive people want to play the best."

The Huskers planned to start the season practicing at Whittier Field, 22nd and Vine streets in Lincoln, and playing home games at undetermined sites. Eventually, they will play and practice at the new Ethel S. Abbott Soccer Park Complex, a \$3-million park that will have 21 playing fields and nine practice fields when all is said and done.

The complex shows the community's and the university's commitment to the sport, Walker said. ■

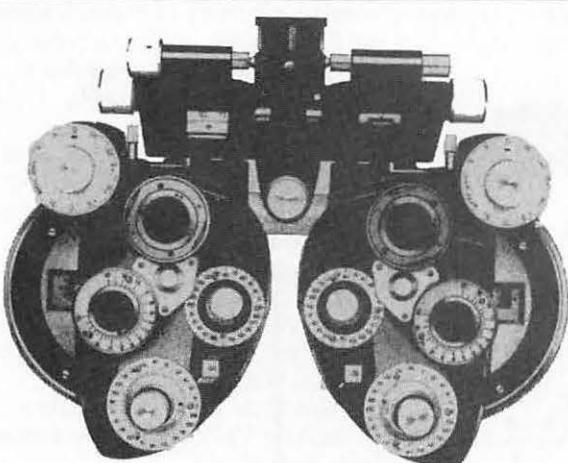
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TRACK SQUAD NEEDS STAR TO MIX WITH RETURNING BALANCE

Jay Dirksen knows his Nebraska women's cross country team has balance. That's not the issue. Before practice began, his concern was finding a runner who will emerge from the pack and be his star.

"I know our depth and balance are good," Dirksen said. "How good we'll be depends on our No. 1 runner."

Dirksen wasn't sure just whom that runner would be, but he had some quality candidates in mind, including senior Kris Ellenbecker, sophomore Christina Blackmer, sophomore Sherri Elwood, senior Julie Mazzitelli or junior Sherri Sutter.

Ellenbecker might be considered the leading candidate, considering she was the Huskers' No. 2 runner at the end of last season.

The Husker women's key loss was All-American Theresa Stelling, who completed her eligibility. She finished 24th in last year's NCAA meet.

The Nebraska women are the defending Big Eight champions, but Dirksen said Colorado will be the team to beat this season. The Huskers finished 20th in the NCAA meet and should be ranked in the nation's top 20 to begin the season, Dirksen said.

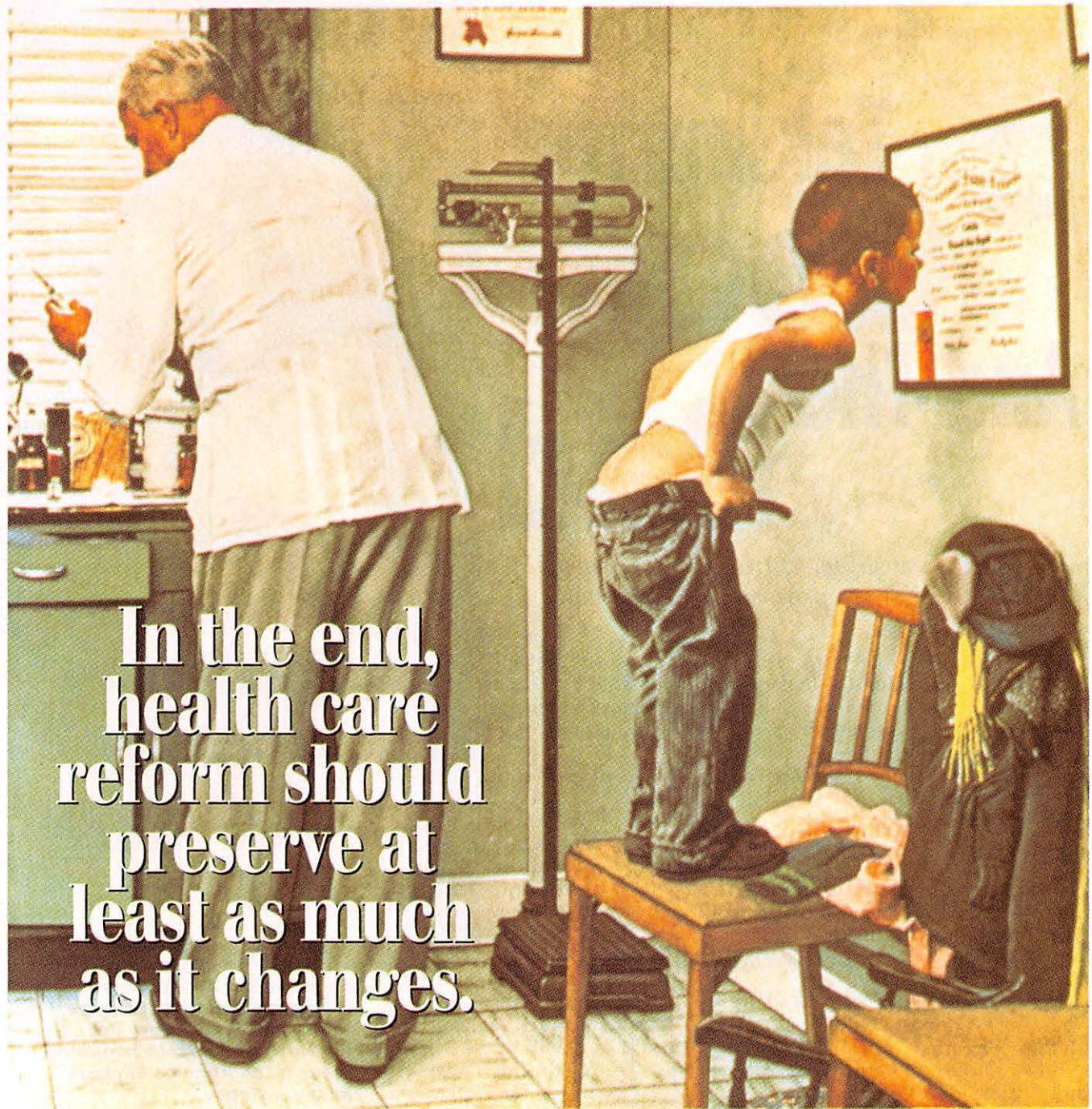
Meanwhile, the Husker men ended up fourth in the Big Eight last season and were third in their NCAA district meet, failing to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Dirksen said the NU men will count on top performances from junior Brady Bonsall and seniors Kevin Miller, Renier Henning, David Draheim and Chad Jansen. Dirksen said Jansen trained during the summer despite inflammation of his heart lining.

"This is probably one of the better men's teams we've had since 1989, but I don't think anybody can beat Iowa State," Dirksen said. ■

**"I know
our depth
and balance
are good.
How good
we'll be
depends on
our No. 1
runner."**

— Jay Dirksen
Women's Cross
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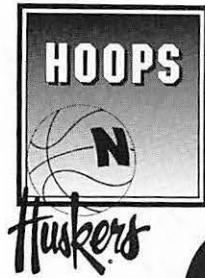
No one knows how long the process of defining and implementing reform will take. But as we enter the "year of reform," it's good to know the instruments of reform are already in place at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska. And that, through the process of reform and beyond, we'll be here to help provide access to good health care.

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Taking The Good And The Bad

Eric Piatkowski went from being booed in Indianapolis to praised in Los Angeles

Welcome to the NBA. Immediately after the Indiana Pacers confirmed their trade of the rights to just-drafted Eric Piatkowski to the Los Angeles Clippers, a Los Angeles sports talk show host was on the air criticizing the move. Don't do it, he told Clippers general manager Elgin Baylor.

"We have enough Nebraska Bugeaters in Southern California. We don't need any more," he said.

The talk show host said Piatkowski was neither big enough to defend against the NBA's front-line players nor quick enough to cover the NBA's guards.

Then, he relented a little. Piatkowski can shoot, he said. "And if you can shoot, you can make an impact in the NBA."

What began as criticism ended in praise.

The Clippers didn't pick up Piatkowski because of his defense, anyway. They were looking for offense when they asked Indiana to make the second-leading scorer in Nebraska history its first-round pick, and the 15th player taken, in the NBA draft. Los Angeles and Indiana had already agreed in principle to a trade involving Piatkowski and four

other players before NBA commissioner David Stern began announcing the names of those drafted.

The Clippers took California's Lamond Murray with the draft's No. 7 pick, after getting assurances from Indiana that it would draft Piatkowski, if he were still available when

the Pacers made the 15th pick. Then Los Angeles would send Mark Jackson and Greg Minor, its No. 25 pick, to the Pacers in exchange for Piatkowski, Pooh Richardson and Malik Sealy. Piatkowski was notified of the impending trade soon after watching Stern announce that he had been selected by the Pacers.

"We are very pleased and excited about these two young players (Murray and Piatkowski)," said Baylor shortly after the draft. "I believe they're going to bring a lot to this club. Some of the things we are looking for are players that are committed, players that will play hard, players with a lot of character. These two young men certainly have this."

"I visited 12 teams over two or three weeks, so I was very open-minded about the whole situation."

— Eric Piatkowski on being traded to the Los Angeles Clippers

Shortly after being picked by the Indianapolis Pacers with the 15th overall selection, Eric Piatkowski was told he would wear a Los Angeles Clippers jersey instead.

"But they are very talented basketball players and will give us something which is much needed — good outside shooting."

The draft, conducted at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, was televised nationally on the TNT cable network. Piatkowski watched with family and friends at his brother's home in Omaha. He declined an offer to be among the projected early draftees at the Hoosier Dome on the big night.

Speculation was, Piatkowski almost certainly would be drafted in the first round, possibly even as one of the first 13 "lottery" picks.

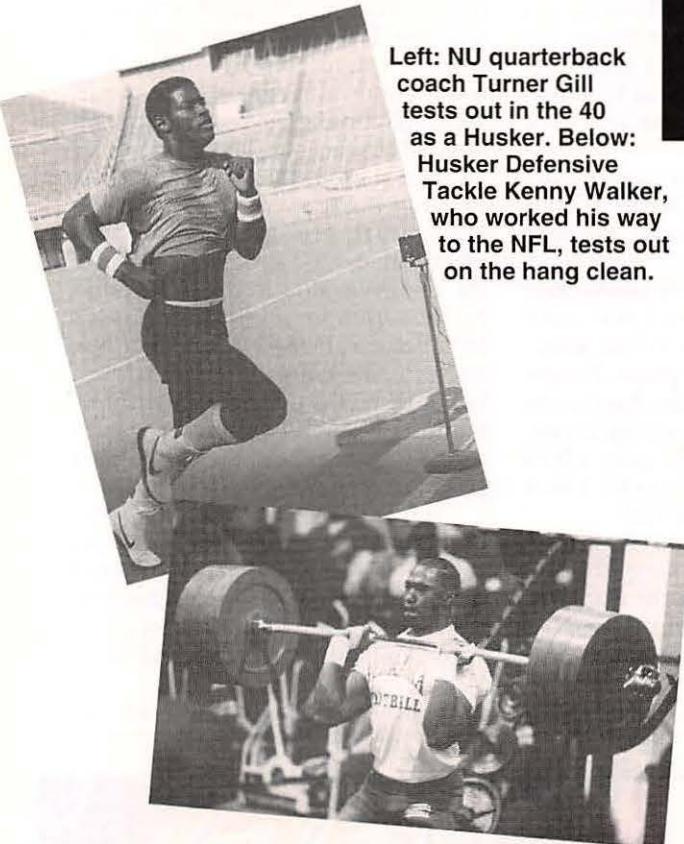
The early lottery picks went as expected: No. 1, Glenn Robinson,



STRENGTH &

SPEED

Left: NU quarterback coach Turner Gill tests out in the 40 as a Husker. Below: Husker Defensive Tackle Kenny Walker, who worked his way to the NFL, tests out on the hang clean.



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NEW HUSKER POWER PERFORMANCE CLUB

The Husker Power Club is now offering a new membership, the Performance Club, for a donation of \$295. Joining, entitles members to level five priority. At this level, members enjoy season tickets, post season ticket and parking priority.

Members in addition, receive all other club benefits, excluding Lifetime membership benefits.

Don't forget, the Husker Power Club Inner Circle membership, for a donation of \$175, entitles members to level six season tickets, post season ticket and parking priority.

Purdue, by the Milwaukee Bucks; No. 2, Jason Kidd, California, by the Dallas Mavericks; No. 3, Grant Hill, Duke, by the Detroit Pistons; No. 4, Donyell Marshall, Connecticut, by the Minnesota Timberwolves; No. 5, Juwan Howard, Michigan, by the Washington Bullets. No suspense. No surprises.

Piatkowski began paying closer attention after the Seattle SuperSonics made Carlos Rogers of Tennessee State the No. 11 pick. No. 12, Khalid Reeves, Arizona, by the Miami Heat. No. 13, Jalen Rose, Michigan, by the Denver Nuggets, a team some thought would opt for Piatkowski. No. 14, Yinka Dare, George Washington, by the New Jersey Nets. Indiana was up next, at No. 15. "The Indiana Pacers pick Eric Piatkowski of Nebraska."

Piatkowski said later he predicted the selection aloud just before it happened, perhaps influenced by the fact that the Cornhuskers' Trev Alberts had been taken by the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL draft two months earlier. The Colts' selection of Alberts, the Butkus Award winner, met with disapproval by some of the Colts' fans in atten-

dance. Stern's announcement of Piatkowski's name also drew a smattering of boos from Pacer fans at the Hoosier Dome.

"Me and Trev Alberts have something in common now," he told the *Lincoln-Journal Star* following his selection. "We both got booed by the Indianapolis fans. I was prepared for that. I even said to someone, 'You watch, Indiana will pick me and they'll boo.'

He was prepared for such a reaction, Piatkowski said. Minutes later, it didn't matter, anyway. He was headed for Los Angeles.

"I visited 12 different teams over two or three weeks, so I was very open-minded about the whole situation. I enjoyed all the places I went and talked to everybody; they were great cities and great organizations. So when they actually said I had been picked by Indianapolis I was just, 'Wow, I've been picked.'

"And then after a couple of minutes, they started talking about a trade being made with the Clippers, and I thought that would even be better. So I'm really happy and excited."

At a news conference he attended

along with Murray, Piatkowski said that if the Clippers were looking for offensive punch, they had two rookies who could provide it.

"I knew last night five minutes after I got picked, but they told me not to say anything," Piatkowski told the *Lincoln-Journal Star*. "I'm excited. I think they're kind of having a youth movement, so it might be rough for awhile, but there's a lot of good players out there."

As expected, Piatkowski was the first Big Eight player chosen in the NBA draft. He was followed by Oklahoma State's Brooks Thompson, the final selection in the first round by the Orlando Magic; Oklahoma's Jeff Webster, taken by Miami at No. 40; and Missouri's Jevon Crudup, the 48th pick by Detroit. Crudup's teammate, Melvin Booker, wasn't drafted. Booker was the Big Eight's player of the year.

"It (the trade) was something that both teams wanted," Piatkowski said. "The Clippers wanted a good off-guard and small forward because they were losing all their scoring with Dominique (Wilkins) and (Ron) Harper."

Piatkowski was only the second

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Cornhusker ever to be taken in the first round of the NBA draft. The other, Rich King, was the 14th player picked, by Seattle, in 1991. King, who's in the third year of a four-year contract worth a reported \$2.8 million, has been plagued by injuries as a professional and has played only sparingly for the SuperSonics. He's missed the playoffs the last two seasons because of injury, a stress fracture in his right foot two years ago and a broken thumb last season.

During the news conference in Los Angeles, Piatkowski assured Clippers fans, including the radio sports talk show host, they wouldn't regret the trade that brought him there. Even though he was from the Midwest, he would be comfortable in Southern California, he said, adding that people regularly told him he looked like a "California guy," anyway.

"I am very happy to be here (Los Angeles) right now," he said. "A lot of people try to say I am a Midwest guy because I lived out there and that's where I'm from. But this is my third time out in L.A. in the last couple of weeks and I think I'm going to love it out here." ■

JOINING THE CLUB

When Eric Piatkowski was selected in the first round of the 1994 NBA draft, he became the 19th Cornhusker to join the professional ranks via the draft.

Although the first NBA draft of collegiate players was held following the 1947-48 season, the league didn't begin to keep records of team-by-team draft lists until 1952. Here is a list of Huskers drafted by the NBA since 1952, with the round, if known, in parentheses.

1952	Jim Buchanan, Boston Celtics
1954	Bill Johnson, Boston Celtics
1960	Herschell Turner, Syracuse Nationals (6th)
1966	Grant Simmons, Baltimore Bullets
1967	Willie Campbell, Seattle SuperSonics (15th)
1968	Stuart Lantz, San Diego Rockets (3rd) Tom Baack, Detroit Pistons (10th)
1970	Jim Brooks, San Diego Rockets (12th)
1971	Marvin Stewart, Philadelphia 76ers (2nd) Leroy Chalk, Boston Celtics (13th)
1972	Chuck Jura, Chicago Bulls (3rd)
1974	Brendy Lee, Atlanta Hawks (10th)
1976	Jerry Fort, Chicago Bulls (10th)
1979	Carl McPipe, Philadelphia 76ers (5th)
1981	Andre Smith, Cleveland Cavaliers (7th)
1982	Jack Moore, Kansas City Kings (9th)
1986	Dave Hoppen, Atlanta Hawks (3rd)
1991	Rick King, Seattle SuperSonics (1st)
1994	Eric Piatkowski, Indianapolis Pacers (1st)*

* rights traded to the Los Angeles Clippers



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FRAZIER

From page 22

Coach Osborne. Everyone knows he can understand what we're going through. It works to have Coach Osborne, who's been here 20-some years, and then you have another person here in Turner Gill who's played for Osborne and knows the system and what we're thinking.

(Gill) can relate to any guy on the field. He knows what's going on. I might make a pass, and Coach Osborne might say, "Well, you should have thrown it to the other guy." But Coach Gill will come back later and say, "You probably should have thrown it to the other guy, but I saw what you were seeing."

HI: Tell me your feelings about playing football in a state that is so passionate about its team?

FRAZIER: In my freshman year, it kind of bothered me that when we lost to Iowa State, I came back here the next day and got threatening calls (at my dormitory room) saying I don't need to be here and that I'm not worthy of wearing the Nebraska red.

When it gets that bad, I don't think it's right. We're out there doing the best we can. It was one of those games we were off, just like Kansas last year. We were off that game, but for some reason we found a way to win it. At Iowa State, we couldn't do that.

But for a person to get that depressed over a football game . . . if anyone is going to get depressed over a football game, it should be the players and not the fans. All it is for them is entertainment. For some people, it goes beyond entertainment.

HI: Is it really a close team?

FRAZIER: Yeah, it's a very close team. We don't have any bitterness between us. If you see three of us, you're gonna see four, five, six, seven or eight other guys with them.

When you see your teammates getting along and going out to a movie and just hanging out, that makes the coach feel really good. At least the coaches know we're friends. On some teams, you might have players fighting with each other over girls or something. On this team, it's not like that.

HI: Do you have a feeling about this team and what it can accomplish?

FRAZIER: I feel very confident. I feel that last year's Orange Bowl showed that we can go out and play against anybody if we just put our heads together and don't worry about what other people are saying.

HI: How often do you think about the Orange Bowl loss to Florida State?

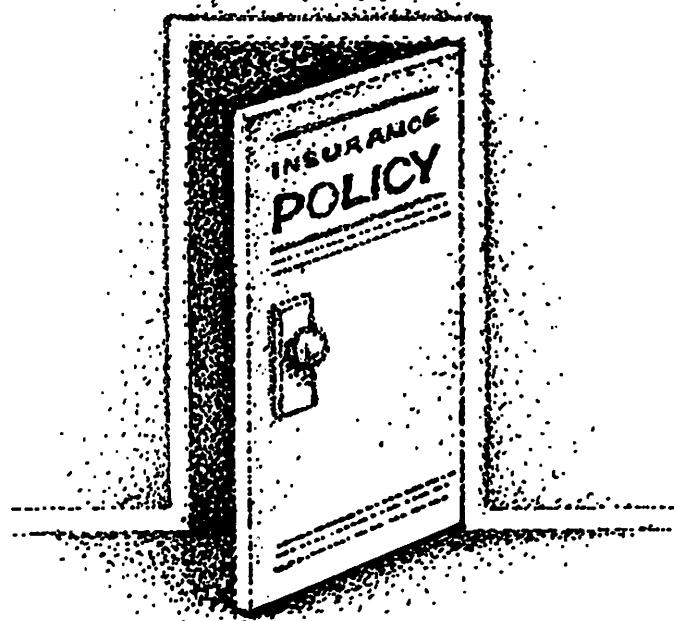
FRAZIER: I try not to think about it too much. Something like that, if you think about it too much, you just get mad about it. There are a lot of what-ifs. So I just try not to think about it, because it's over and done

with and there's nothing I can do about it now.

HI: Does last year's success add pressure this season?

FRAZIER: I don't feel any pressure. I still think people are skeptical about us and think we play a lackluster schedule. We feel that, really, the only people we have to prove ourselves to are the coaches and ourselves, and if we do that, we don't care what the outsiders think. We're not playing for them. We're playing for ourselves, the coaches and the university.

The fans will be behind us whether we win or lose. Nebraska football is basically the only thing here in the state of Nebraska. ■



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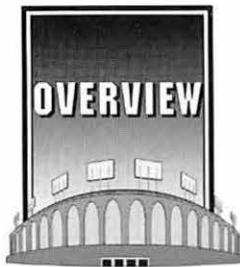
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No Time For Rest

Tom Osborne's tireless preparation and attention to detail keeps him focused while others might relax

By MIKE BABCOCK

Tom Osborne arrived in Lincoln 32 years ago, following a brief playing career in the National Football League. He enrolled at the University of Nebraska as a graduate student and approached Cornhusker football coach Bob Devaney about working as a graduate assistant.

Devaney, who was preparing for his first season at Nebraska, hired Osborne and Dallas Dyer, who had completed his eligibility as a Cornhusker the previous fall. Dyer had played for Devaney's predecessor, Bill Jennings. Osborne and Dyer joined full-time assistants Jim Ross, Mike Corgan, Carl Selmer, George Kelly, John Melton and Cletus Fischer in forming the staff that would help Devaney effect a dramatic turnaround in a tradition-rich program that had fallen on hard times.

His career plans were unclear back then, Osborne writes in his autobiography, "More Than Winning."

During the four years he worked as a grad assistant on Devaney's staff, while completing master's and doctorate degrees, he taught educational psychology. During that time, Clifford Hardin, the university chancellor, suggested that Osborne consider a career in school administration. It was then, Osborne writes, that he decided to coach full-time, a decision to which Devaney was agreeable.

Having settled on a career, Osborne developed a plan whereby he hoped to be a head coach by age 35. That, of course, is the way things worked out for Nebraska's head coach of 21 years. Devaney, also the athletic director



at the time, named Osborne as his successor in 1972, giving Osborne the title of assistant head coach for the season before he retired from coaching to attend to his athletic director's duties full-time.

Osborne and wife Nancy settled into a new home when he became the Cornhuskers' head coach. They remained in the home until this summer, which was anything but typical for the 57-year-old Osborne. For one thing, they have moved, to a home with a fishing pond in the backyard, in south Lincoln. The move was completed in early July.

"The worst part of the move is not being able to find things," Osborne said while check-

While Tom Osborne took a short break to fish this summer, the football offices were remodeled, if for no other reason than to help in recruiting.

ing in at his South Stadium office one day in July.

Osborne really didn't have an office at the time. What used to be his second-floor office should be meeting rooms for the offense and defense now, if construction is completed on schedule.

Remodeling the Nebraska football offices was necessary, if for no other reason than to help in recruiting. The South Stadium's second floor was functional but hardly enough of a showplace to impress the nation's best high school players.

"We've already got stuff missing," Osborne said, referring to his personal move rather than the one involving the office. "Nancy has born the brunt of it (the move). I hope she can maintain her sanity."

In addition to the move, the



youngest of the Osbornes' three children, Suzi, is to be married in September. And, if those things weren't sufficient to qualify Osborne's summer as untypical, he took 10 consecutive days off from preparing for the 1994 season to go on an Alaskan cruise and spend some time fishing with son Mike.

"I've never felt comfortable taking an extended time away," Osborne said. That's especially been true since he replaced Devaney.

Some coaches "take quite a bit of time off," Osborne said, adding that the late Paul "Bear" Bryant was among those. Bryant "used to take off for a couple of months."

It's not just his tireless preparation and attention to detail that keeps him focused on his program when others might be relaxing. It's a matter of practicality, as well. "I've known of coaches who went off for a month, and when they came back, five or six players were ineligible," Osborne said. As a result, "I'm usually gone a week at the longest."

"I've known of coaches who went off for a month, and when they came back, five or six players were ineligible."

— Tom Osborne

Osborne needn't have worried about his players while he was on the cruise, which was organized for Cornhusker fans. Frank Solich, Nebraska's assistant head coach, and wife Pam also went on the cruise. Osborne seemed relaxed, posing for pictures and discussing the upcoming season with the fans, Solich said.

Osborne said he probably falls "somewhere in between" those coaches who take much of the sum-

mer off and those who never stop working from the time spring practice ends until fall camp begins. More likely, he's off center on such a continuum, closer to the latter than the former.

He does take some time during the summer for himself and his family, however. "I wouldn't be as effective (coaching) as I need to be otherwise," he said.

Immediately after the cruise, Osborne was back at the office -- what there was of it -- meeting with his assistants: a couple of days on defense, a couple of days on offense. He spent a week in July fishing, and the rest of the month was devoted to evaluating film of Nebraska's non-conference opponents.

As with the summer, this could be an extraordinary season for major college football's winningest active coach. "We're probably going to have a good team," Osborne said.

He's never been more committal than that, probably even as an eager graduate assistant. ■

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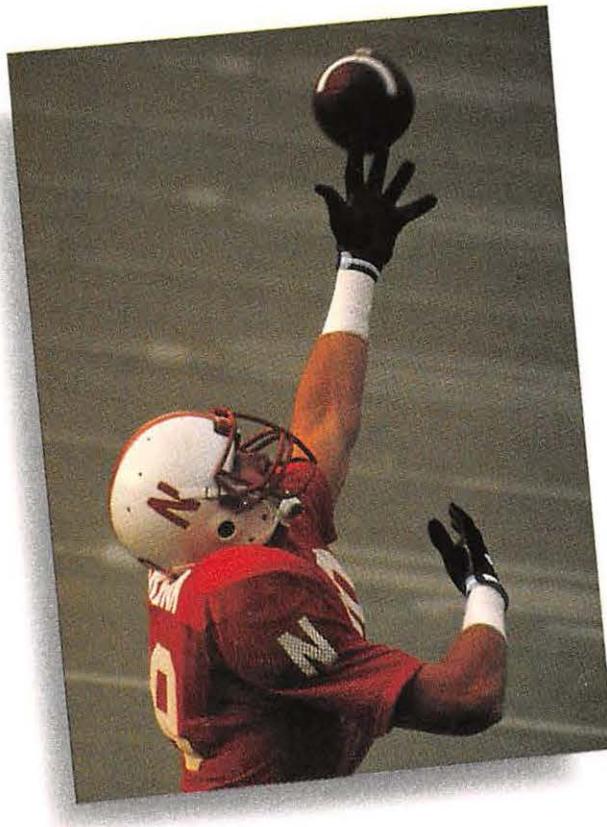
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